



Residential and Community Services
Providing Quality Care for People with Developmental Disabilities

Erie Homes for Children and Adults, Inc.

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1912-2003

91 Years of Caring

April 2, 2004

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The Federal Election Commission
999 E St., NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to tell you that we oppose the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that propose a new threshold for when an organization would have to be considered a regulated political committee, subject to fundraising and spending rules.

The FEC's proposed rules threaten nonprofit advocacy and are an infringement on freedom of speech. The proposed rules broadly threaten the nonprofit's ability to engage in critically important legislative advocacy and nonpartisan voter education activity. The proposed rules, if approved, would drastically change the breadth and scope of how nonprofits operate. Merely expressing an opinion about an officeholder's policies could turn a nonprofit group overnight into a federally regulated political committee with crippling fund-raising restrictions.

I am asking you to withdraw the FEC's proposal which would be a serious threat to nonprofits throughout the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Paul Carpenedo
Executive Director

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