



**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20463

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Commission  
**FROM:** Commission Secretary's Office  
**DATE:** July 24, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Comments on Draft AO 2013-06  
(DSCC)

*sej*

**Attached is a timely submitted comment from Robert Austin.  
This matter is on the July 25, 2013 Open Meeting Agenda.**

**Attachment**



Public Comment on AO 2013-06 (DSCC)  
Robert Austin

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to:  
AO  
07/24/2013 09:55 AM

2013 JUL 24 AM 11:48

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From: Robert Austin

To: AO@fec.gov,

History: This message has been forwarded.

In regard to the draft opinion AO 2013-06 concerning contributions from same-sex spouses, I encourage the committee to regard state laws that define "spouse" as same-sex couples in a civil union as spouses for the purposes of Commission regulations. For example, Colorado Statute 14-15-102. states:

**(1) "CIVIL UNION" MEANS A RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED BY TWO ELIGIBLE PERSONS PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE THAT ENTITLES THEM TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS AND BE SUBJECT TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPOUSES.**

By limiting the definition of spouse to what the committee defines in the draft document to "the term 'spouse' includes same-sex couples married under state law" it ignores those state laws in which the term "spouse" is used in defining a civil union. These are states, such as Colorado, that do not allow marriage but have provided same-sex partners a legal definition by which spousal benefits are available.

To ignore these spouses in to perpetuate the very discrimination inherent in the DOMA law.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Austin