



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

MAY 29 2013

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Connecticut Republican State Central Committee  
31 Pratt Street, Fourth Floor  
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: MUR 6480

Dear Sir or Madam:

On July 5, 2011, the Federal Election Commission received a complaint filed by Christopher C. Healy on behalf of the Connecticut Republican State Central Committee against Working Families Campaign Committee and Mary Rydingsward in her official capacity as treasurer, and CT Working Families Federal PAC d/b/a Take Back Congress CT and Timothy Sullivan in his official capacity as treasurer (collectively, "Respondents"). The complaint alleged that Respondents violated certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act").

On December 18, 2012, based upon the information provided in the complaint and information provided by Respondents, the Commission found no reason to believe that Respondents violated the Act. Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter on May 21, 2013.

Documents related to the case will be placed on the public record within 30 days. See Statement of Policy Regarding Disclosure of Closed Enforcement and Related Files, 68 Fed. Reg. 70,426 (Dec. 18, 2003). The Factual and Legal Analyses, which more fully explain the Commission's findings, are enclosed.

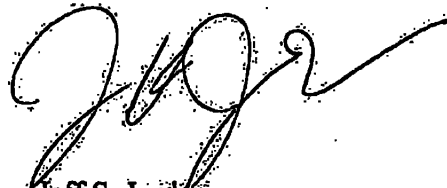
The Act allows a complainant to seek judicial review of the Commission's dismissal of this action. See 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(8).

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If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Heilizer, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Anthony Herman  
General Counsel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff S. Jordan', is written over the typed name.

BY: Jeff S. Jordan  
Supervisory Attorney  
Complaints Examination and  
Legal Administration

Enclosures:  
Factual and Legal Analyses

cc: Christopher C. Healy

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**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

**FACTUAL AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

RESPONDENTS: Working Families Campaign Committee MUR.6480  
Mary Rydingsward in her official capacity as treasurer

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This matter was generated by a Complaint filed by Christopher Healy, State Party Chairman of the Connecticut Republicans, alleging violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended (the "Act"). It was scored as a low-rated matter under the Enforcement Priority System, a system by which the Federal Election Commission ("Commission") uses formal scoring criteria as a basis to allocate its resources and decide which matters to pursue.

**A. Factual Background**

The Complaint alleges that Working Families Campaign Committee and Mary Rydingsward, in her official capacity as treasurer, (collectively the "State Party")<sup>1</sup> violated the Act and Commission regulations by making contributions to the party's political action committee, CT Working Families Federal PAC d/b/a/ Take Back Congress CT and Timothy Sullivan in his official capacity as treasurer ("Federal PAC"). In response, the State Party asserts that the funds at issue were not "contributions" but rather reimbursements for shared activities that were funded by the Federal PAC.

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<sup>1</sup> The State Party is an independent political party registered with the Connecticut State Elections Enforcement Commission.

1           **B.      Legal Analysis**

2           Although political committees are prohibited from knowingly accepting a  
3           contribution that does not conform to the Act's contribution limits and source prohibitions,  
4           *see* 2 U.S.C. § 441a(f); 11 C.F.R. § 110.9, a state party that has established a nonfederal  
5           account may allocate certain expenses, such as administrative expenses, between its  
6           federal and nonfederal accounts and transfer funds from its nonfederal account to its  
7           federal account to cover the nonfederal share of allocable expenses. *See* 11 C.F.R.  
8           §§ 102.5, 106.7.

9           On July 28, 2011, the Federal PAC disclosed the payments from the State Party in  
10          a series of amended financial disclosure reports, which included a Schedule H3  
11          (administrative expenses).<sup>2</sup> Thus, it appears that that the State Party's payments to the  
12          Federal PAC were not contributions, but rather were made for the purpose of reimbursing  
13          the Federal PAC for allocable expenses. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that  
14          Working Families Campaign Committee and Mary Rydingsward, in her official capacity  
15          as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(a) in submitting reimbursements for allocable  
16          activity.

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<sup>2</sup>          Following the receipt of the Complaint, on July 28, 2011, the Federal PAC amended its 2010 Year-End, February 2011 Monthly, and March 2011 Monthly reports to include a Schedule H, which reflects the expense reimbursements referred to in the Complaint.

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1 In its Response, the Federal PAC argues that its name complies with Commission  
2 regulations as it does not include the name of any candidate.<sup>2</sup> With respect to the allegation  
3 that the payments from the State Party to the Federal PAC were illegal contributions, the  
4 Response states that the payments were not contributions but rather reimbursements for  
5 shared activities that were funded by the Federal PAC.

6 **B. Legal Analysis**

7 With respect to state party committees registered with the Commission, the only  
8 naming requirement is that "such political committee shall not include the name of any  
9 candidate in its name." 2 U.S.C. § 432(e)(4). CT Working Families Federal PAC d/b/a  
10 Take Back Congress CT is not an authorized committee of a candidate and does not use the  
11 name of a candidate in its name. Therefore, there is no reason to believe that Federal PAC  
12 and Timothy Sullivan, in his official capacity as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 432(e)(4)  
13 with respect to the Committee's registered name.

14 Political committees are prohibited from knowingly accepting a contribution that  
15 does not conform to the Act's contribution limits and source prohibitions. *See* 2 U.S.C.  
16 § 441a(f); 11 C.F.R. § 110.9. However, a state party that has established a nonfederal  
17 account may allocate certain expenses, such as administrative expenses, between its federal  
18 and nonfederal accounts and transfer funds from its nonfederal account to its federal  
19 account to cover the nonfederal share of allocable expenses. *See* 11 C.F.R. §§ 102.5, 106.7.

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<sup>2</sup> The Response also asserts that the Commission was on notice of the difference in the names between the Federal PAC and State Party in Advisory Opinion 2010-22. In that AO, the Federal PAC requested that the Commission consider whether Connecticut Working Families Federal PAC d/b/a Take Back Congress CT would qualify as a State committee of a political party — the Connecticut Working Families Party — within the meaning of the Act and Commission regulations.

1           On July 28, 2011, the Federal PAC disclosed the payments from the State Party in a  
2 series of amended financial disclosure reports, which included a Schedule H3  
3 (administrative expenses).<sup>3</sup> Thus, the Federal PAC ultimately reported the payments from  
4 the State Party as allocable expenses. Accordingly, there is no reason to believe that CT  
5 Working Families Federal PAC d/b/a Take Back Congress CT and Timothy Sullivan, in his  
6 official capacity as treasurer, violated 2 U.S.C. § 441a(f) with respect to the receipt of  
7 reimbursements for allocable activity.

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<sup>3</sup> Following the receipt of the Complaint, on July 28, 2011, the Federal PAC amended its 2010 Year-End, February 2011 Monthly, and March 2011 Monthly reports to include a Schedule H, which reflects the expense reimbursements referred to in the Complaint.