

For Immediate Release

2/13/2004

Contact:

Kay Guinane

(202) 234-8494

guinane@ombwatch.org

FEC ACTION MAY HAVE IMPACT ON NONPROFIT ADVOCACY

Leadership Organizations Join in Common Message

WASHINGTON ----- Four national nonprofit organizations - Charity Lobbying in the Public Interest (CLPI),

The FEC will soon rule on the draft advisory opinion that would greatly increase regulation of what nonprofits can do.

If the draft is approved, the ruling will apply immediately to political committees, but many FEC observers expect it to be delayed.

The key to this draft AO is that it expands the definition of electioneering "expenditures" to include spending on

- more -

NCRP News Release

Friday, February 13, 2004

Page 2 of 2

The AO explains its definition of "electioneering" in a manner that covers virtually any type of policy discussion.

* Fundraising appeals - A fundraising pitch that touts the organization's efforts opposing the Bush administration.

* Policy advocacy - If an email were sent describing the actions of a member of Congress to limit nonprofit lobbying.

* Educational materials - Information in printed materials, on websites, or elsewhere that tends to cast favor or disfavor on a candidate or issue.