

Non-Profit Groups Call for Secretary of State to Abandon Plans to Silence Speech



CONCERNED
VETERANS
FOR AMERICA™

July 11, 2017

To Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver:

On behalf of our organizations and the tens of thousands of New Mexico citizens we represent, we urge you to remove language taken from SB 96 from your recently-released proposed rules. Your proposal is an attempt to circumvent the legislative process and silence citizens through executive rulemaking.



Freedom of association is a bedrock of our society, and your rules, as proposed, threaten this fundamental right. Our groups – which represent citizens of New Mexico from all walks of life and across the ideological spectrum – are gravely concerned about the impact of these rules. Specifically, we believe these rules will stifle our ability to freely communicate our ideas and educate citizens across the state on critical public policy issues.



The rules about independent expenditures are of utmost concern. If these proposed rules become final, people will be forced to report their personal information just for supporting a cause they feel passionately about. The names and addresses of citizens of New Mexico would be put on a searchable government database available to anyone, anytime online – opening them up to intimidation and harassment by those who may disagree with them on an issue. This will effectively silence supporters of non-profit groups and charitable organizations across the ideological spectrum.



Every New Mexican has the right to support the causes they believe without fear of intimidation or harassment. We urge you to protect the freedom of speech of our supporters and remove any language taken from SB 96 during from your final rules.



Signed,



Mark Lucas, Executive Director, Concerned Veterans for America
Former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, Honorary Chairman, Our America Initiative
Mark J. Fitzgibbons, President of Corporate Affairs, American Target Advertising
Luke Hilgemann, Chief Executive Officer, Americans for Prosperity
Burly Cain, New Mexico State Director, Americans For Prosperity
Norman Singleton, President, Campaign for Liberty
Kent Lassman, President, Competitive Enterprise Institute
Richard Morrison, Senior Editor, Competitive Enterprise Institute
Andrew Clark, Executive Director, Generation Opportunity
Jorge Lima, Executive Director, The LIBRE Initiative
Birga Alden, Executive Director, Love Inc of Albuquerque
Carla J. Sontag, President & Founder, New Mexico Business Coalition
Charles Frohman, Grassroots Director, Our America Initiative
Jason Vaillancourt, Board Member, Our America Initiative
Ranota Banks, Board Member, Our America Initiative
John E. Clemons, Executive Director, Protect Americans Now
Gary Coppedge, Board Member, Protect Americans Now
Ryan Perry, Board Member, Protect Americans Now
John Richardson, Board Member, Protect Americans Now
Megan Richardson, Board Member, Protect Americans Now
Ken Swaim, Board Member, Protect Americans Now
Paul J. Gessing, President, Rio Grande Foundation
Michael A. Aguilar, Executive Director, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance
Gary Coppedge, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance
Don Biad, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance
Dan Schnieder, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance
Russell Allen, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance
Tom Hutchison, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance
Blair Dunn, Partner, Western Agriculture, Resource & Business Advocates

