

June 4, 2020

Carol C. Quinn  
Deputy Director of Lobbying Guidance  
Joint Commission on Public Ethics  
540 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207  
carol.quinn@jcope.ny.gov



Re: Comments on Staff Proposal for Revision of Source of Funding Regulations.

Dear Ms. Quinn,

I submit these comments regarding the staff proposal for revision of source of funding regulations, 19 NYCRR Part 938, on behalf of the Drug Policy Action (hereafter “DPA”).

The proposed change to amend the definition of a contribution as set forth in Part 938.2(e), is a great first step in aligning the source of funding disclosure with the Legislative Law. Countless nonprofit organizations in New York operate nationally and have separate issue-oriented campaigns in several other states, campaigns that in no way influence New York politics. To be able to continue their advocacy, nonprofit organizations rely on funding from donors. Current regulations however required that all 501(c)4 contributions, including those that did not impact New York in any manner, be disclosed – an onerous requirement that created a number of concerns for people funding campaigns in other states that are completely unrelated to our New York advocacy, and therefore restricted the amount of funding and advocacy that could be effectuated by nonprofit organizations.

We provide these comments to bring attention to the effect that they will have on nonprofit organizations, specifically those nonprofit organizations that operate nationally. And while we would like to see this definition expanded to include operating costs, which do not impact lobbying in New York, DPA supports the proposed change to Part 938.2(e), and commends JCOPE on taking this step.

Thank you for considering this comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (646) 470-2827, or [mmoore@drugpolicy.org](mailto:mmoore@drugpolicy.org), with any questions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Moore  
Drug Policy Action  
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