

April 20, 2009

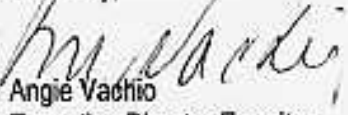
Dear Charter Review Task Force Member,

We write to express deep concern about the amendment introduced by Task Force member Chuck Gara to limit the free speech of nonprofit organizations operating in Albuquerque by broadening the definition of a measure finance committee. The amendment would prevent an organization from issuing any kind of communication four months before an election. For example, a domestic violence shelter could not send an email to its supporters about a matter pending before the Albuquerque City Council in June of an election year. By sending the email, the shelter would risk having all of its donors publically disclosed – a risk that could have the effect of silencing the organization.

Similar measures that were introduced in the legislature were recently defeated. Those proposed bills had no basis in the law and their defeat was appropriate and warranted. We see absolutely no reason to have a similar measure introduced into the City Charter. Since there was no credible legal argument to support this type of measure against nonprofit's free speech in the legislature, there is none to support it at the city level. In light of that, we can only understand the introduction of this amendment as a completely unwarranted political attack against nonprofits.

We urge you to oppose this amendment.

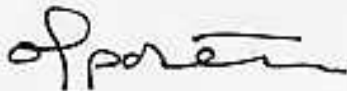
Sincerely,



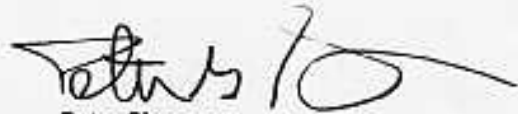
Angie Vachio
Executive Director Emeritus
Peanut Butter & Jelly Family Services, Inc.



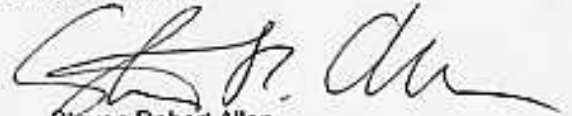
Rebecca Dakota
Executive Director
Albuquerque Independent Business Alliance



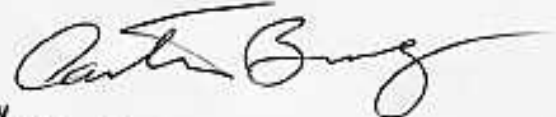
Ona Porter
Executive Director
Community Action New Mexico



Peter Simonson
Executive Director
ACLU New Mexico



Steven Robert Allen
Executive Director
Common Cause New Mexico



Carter Bundy
Political & Legislator Director
AFSCME Council 18