



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
Michigan Chapter
Chartered by United States Congress



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Federal Trade Commission
Office of Secretary, Room 159
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20580



To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA), I urge you to consider exempting charitable organizations from the amendments to the Telemarketing Sales Rule (TRS), which creates a national “do not call” registry for nonprofits. This legislation would make it very difficult for professional fund-raisers to raise funds on behalf of reputable non-profit organizations in the State of Michigan.

The Michigan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America is a member of the Washington D.C. based Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946. Paralyzed Veterans of America has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members – veterans of the armed forces who have experienced a spinal cord **injury** or disease.

The Michigan nonprofit sector is comprised of more than 38,000 nonprofit organizations. Of these, 19,000 are 501(c)(3) nonprofits, which means their purpose is religion, educational, charitable, scientific, literary or cultural. The scope of the nonprofit community ranges from large institutions like state universities to small veteran groups like MPVA or local food banks. Nonprofits work with every issue of concern important to Michigan Residents – from education to health, human services to the arts, economic development to the environment.

Seeing the important role charities play in the state, the concern with requiring these groups to abide by a national “do not call” registry is that such a demand would decrease donations to these worthy causes, thus negatively impacting the quality of life for Michigan residents. There are no statistics available that a substantial amount of consumer complaints stem from telemarketing by charities. In fact, the general public tends to view telephone solicitation by charities as different from telemarketing by business.

WHO IS PVA?

The Paralyzed Veterans of America was founded in **1947** to address the needs and concerns of veterans who have sustained an injury or disease of the spinal cord. PVA is devoting its life and effort to enhancing the quality of life for these veterans and other persons with disabilities by administering programs in research, wheelchair sports, legislation and advocating for improved civil rights for persons with a disability regardless of race, creed or color.

Finding funding for programs to serve the residents of Michigan is becoming increasingly more difficult. Now an amendment is being introduced that would put limitations on the ability of Michigan charities to raise funds by creating this additional hardship, especially during a time when the economy is weak. Without the generosity of thousands of individuals and organizations, MPVA could not exist.

Each contribution received helps MPVA serve veterans with spinal cord injury and/or dysfunction to ensure that they receive the monetary and health-care benefits they have earned by virtue of their service to their country. It also allows us to work closely with federal, state, and local policymakers to initiate and implement legislation that benefits PVA members and all citizens with disabilities.

On behalf of the membership of the MPVA I hope that you will consider the implications that amendments to the TSR could have on the ability of charitable organizations to raise revenues needed to support their mission. With government cutbacks in funding it is becoming more critical ~~than~~ ever that community-based organizations be given the ability to raise the revenues necessary to fund the programs that provide the foundation to serve people who are down on their luck.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 248 476-9000.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Michael Harris, Government Relations, MPVA

CC: Ken Huber, President, MPVA
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