



Special Olympics
New Jersey

March 26, 2002

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

Dear Ms./Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you on behalf of Special Olympics New Jersey, Inc. (SONJ). My organization provides sports training and competitions for more than 14,000 individuals with developmental disabilities from throughout our State. We run more than 140 competitions annually, in addition to providing training, wellness and other educational opportunities. These programs are completely free of charge to our athletes!

SONJ has a small staff of 23 full and part-time employees responsible not only for conducting our programs, but also for raising the \$5,000,000 a year that it takes to run our programs. The only government money we receive is a \$125,000 pass-through grant; the remainder of our revenue comes from generous corporations, organizations and individuals in our State.

A significant part of our outreach and fund raising programs is contacting people via telephone. We rely on the expertise of professional telemarketing services to contact large numbers of people to help us identify individuals who could benefit from our services; individuals who would like to become involved in our organization; and individuals who would like to make a contribution. We work very closely with our telemarketing companies to ensure that they represent us with the utmost professionalism.

SONJ is, therefore, opposed to the proposal to amend the Telemarketing Sales Rule by including a national do-not-call registry that will include some, but not all, calls. It would seem inherently unfair to include organizations striving for the betterment of society – namely, non-profit organizations – while excluding those companies merely seeking to put another dollar in the pocket of an already wealthy executive.

All telephone calls on behalf of non-profit organizations should be excluded from the proposed national do-not-call registry amendment!

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Schwanda
Chief Financial Officer

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