

March 19, 2002

Office of the Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
Room 159
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Sir:

I am writing you on behalf of the 14,000 persons with mental disabilities throughout Virginia that Special Olympics Virginia's year-round program of sports training and competition serves.

Special Olympics Virginia (SOVA) opposed to the proposed amendment to the Telemarketing Sales Rule to create a national registry for a "do not call list." SOVA employs the services of outside vendors to raise funds, recruit volunteers and conduct cause-related marketing promotions through direct marketing. Over 25% of our annual net revenue is derived from these efforts. The amendment, as proposed, would have a devastating effect upon our ability to further our mission.

It is unfair that politicians, banks and telephone companies are exempt from such a registry, for whatever reason, while non-profits that benefit our communities are not. As currently written, this provision would effect our ability to continue communication with current donors that now appear on the registry and make it prohibitive to seek new supports. If the registry is enacted in this way it will deeply effect many worthy non-profits and shift the provision of these services from the non-profit sector to the government.

Since the Reagan administration, government funding of non-profits has decreased significantly. Now the government wants to eliminate more of the dollars to non-profits but allow certain factors to thrive.

Special Olympics Virginia opposes the proposed amendment and feels that all calls on behalf of non-profit organizations should be excluded from coverage. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for this opportunity to provide input to the process.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Jeffrey
President