

## Non-Profit Groups Call for Secretary of State to Abandon Plans to Silence Speech



**CONCERNED  
VETERANS  
FOR AMERICA™**

July 11, 2017

To Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver:

On behalf of our organizations and the tens of thousands of New Mexico citizens we represent, we urge you to remove language taken from SB 96 from your recently-released proposed rules. Your proposal is an attempt to circumvent the legislative process and silence citizens through executive rulemaking.



Freedom of association is a bedrock of our society, and your rules, as proposed, threaten this fundamental right. Our groups – which represent citizens of New Mexico from all walks of life and across the ideological spectrum – are gravely concerned about the impact of these rules. Specifically, we believe these rules will stifle our ability to freely communicate our ideas and educate citizens across the state on critical public policy issues.



The rules about independent expenditures are of utmost concern. If these proposed rules become final, people will be forced to report their personal information just for supporting a cause they feel passionately about. The names and addresses of citizens of New Mexico would be put on a searchable government database available to anyone, anytime online – opening them up to intimidation and harassment by those who may disagree with them on an issue. This will effectively silence supporters of non-profit groups and charitable organizations across the ideological spectrum.



Every New Mexican has the right to support the causes they believe without fear of intimidation or harassment. We urge you to protect the freedom of speech of our supporters and remove any language taken from SB 96 during from your final rules.



Signed,



Mark Lucas, Executive Director, Concerned Veterans for America  
Former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, Honorary Chairman, Our America Initiative  
Mark J. Fitzgibbons, President of Corporate Affairs, American Target Advertising  
Luke Hilgemann, Chief Executive Officer, Americans for Prosperity  
Burly Cain, New Mexico State Director, Americans For Prosperity  
Norman Singleton, President, Campaign for Liberty  
Kent Lassman, President, Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Richard Morrison, Senior Editor, Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Andrew Clark, Executive Director, Generation Opportunity  
Jorge Lima, Executive Director, The LIBRE Initiative  
Birga Alden, Executive Director, Love Inc of Albuquerque  
Carla J. Sontag, President & Founder, New Mexico Business Coalition  
Charles Frohman, Grassroots Director, Our America Initiative  
Jason Vaillancourt, Board Member, Our America Initiative  
Ranota Banks, Board Member, Our America Initiative  
John E. Clemons, Executive Director, Protect Americans Now  
Gary Coppedge, Board Member, Protect Americans Now  
Ryan Perry, Board Member, Protect Americans Now  
John Richardson, Board Member, Protect Americans Now  
Megan Richardson, Board Member, Protect Americans Now  
Ken Swaim, Board Member, Protect Americans Now  
Paul J. Gessing, President, Rio Grande Foundation  
Michael A. Aguilar, Executive Director, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance  
Gary Coppedge, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance  
Don Biad, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance  
Dan Schnieder, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance  
Russell Allen, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance  
Tom Hutchison, Board Member, Southern New Mexico Business Alliance  
Blair Dunn, Partner, Western Agriculture, Resource & Business Advocates

