

**From:** Amy Mercer

**To:** USOGE

**Subject:** White House Targets Trade Associations in Amended Gift Rules

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Incorporated in 1952, the Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) has grown in membership, influence and professionalism to become one of the most respected law enforcement associations in the country. It is the fourth largest professional association for law enforcement administrators in the United States.

Our Membership includes more than 800 executives representing municipal and county law enforcement agencies, college and university police departments, corporate and private security firms, numerous state and federal agencies and concerned citizens who proudly support the efforts of law enforcement administrators throughout the state.

Below is an outline of our vision, mission and values:

**Our Vision...** The FPCA is the nation's pre-eminent law enforcement professional association, speaking for Florida's chiefs and providing guidance and leadership for the future of law enforcement and our communities.

**Our Mission...** To continuously enhance law enforcement professionalism by providing a unified voice for police chiefs statewide and nationally, serving as the public face of law enforcement executive leadership, and providing a forum for executive education, development, and exchange of ideas.

**Our Values...** As the association of Florida's police chiefs, we value the highest standards of excellence and performance which are reflected in our:

- Commitment to service

- Professionalism

- Integrity

- Accountability

As you can see in our mission statement, one of the FPCA's main objectives is to provide quality training that incorporates and blends professional business practices with law enforcement standards. This training is provided by our association to the agency's CEO as well as his/her Command Staff. The citizens benefit from the knowledge and skills that the people attending this training bring back to their departments, and ultimately, their communities.

We are one of the associations that will be greatly affected by your proposed regulations on lobbying associations' relationships with government employees. We are not a union, but we "fight" for law enforcement rights and better law enforcement standards not only in the State of Florida, but in the United States of America. We, like so many of the comparable associations across the USA, promote the enhancement of safety and the protection of inalienable rights to the citizens of our communities, our states and our country.

Because of the financial and economical disarray that this country now finds itself, law enforcement has had to mount tremendous budget cuts, which inevitably affects the security of the citizens in our communities. The metropolitan agencies are less affected than the smaller, rural agencies. These smaller, rural agencies represent well over 80% of our law enforcement membership. The training and education provided by our association does not come free. We charge the lowest amount possible to "cover our overhead costs".

We hope the Federal Government will recognize the great service that professional association's provide to not only their members but the citizens throughout the nation.

Respectfully, Amy Mercer, Executive Director