From: Stewart Jones
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:11:51 PM

Our democracy is in mortal danger. Now is not the time to weaken ethics rules.

We oppose Office of Government Ethics proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted.

Please instead do the following:

- remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional;
- replace the proposed recusal requirement with a broader 5-year recusal requirement that prevents donors of cash gifts from influencing decisions, policies, or regulations affecting them or the industries in which they have substantial interests;
- remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser; and
- place nonprofit charities (501(c)(3) organizations) on an equal footing with large law firms by allowing them to hire legal counsel for whistle blowers.

Sincerely,
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