From: Stacey Hamilton
To: USOGE
Subject: Proposed Rule: Legal Expense Fund Regulation (RIN 3209-AA50)
Date: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 4:37:25 PM

I oppose the OGE's proposed legal expense fund regulation as drafted. Ethics is not optional, and the prior administration and their allies have made a mockery of what this country *thought* were strong ethics laws, protections and precedents.

OGE should:
1) Remove the exception that makes compliance with the regulation optional;
2) 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;
3) Remove the offensive example involving an accused sexual harasser.

Please stop leaving loopholes and “options” for intentional non-compliance. We should be strengthening our ethics laws across the board, increasing transparency, and holding *everyone* accountable. We have to repair the damage and re-form the trust in our democratic and apolitical institutions, piece by piece.