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20TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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Congress of the United States
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April 30, 2002

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Honorable Timothy J. Muris
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

Dear Chairman Muris:

The U.S.A. Patriot Act ("the Act") incorporated the Crimes Against Charitable Americans bill, introduced by Senator Mitch McConnell (KY-R), to protect Americans from fundraising activities by fraudulent, non-profit organizations. However, it **has** since come to my attention that the Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") proposed telemarketing rule would possibly limit the ability of my local firemen, policemen, and veterans to raise funds to support their community service efforts in my district.

When Senator McConnell introduced the legislation, he said it "authorizes law enforcement and regulatory agencies to specifically target fraudulent charitable solicitation." In the wake of the frauds committed by fake charities after the September 11th tragedy, Congress amended the Telemarketing Act to include charities. The intent of Congress **was** to prevent fraudulent charitable organizations from "exploiting well-intentioned Americans." The proposed regulation, however, seems to go beyond limiting the actions of fraudulent charitable organizations and consequently, would limit fundraising by legitimate non-profit and charitable organizations.

There are thousands of charities and non-profit fraternal organizations that do not have the financial resources to sustain in house fundraising efforts. Historically, between sixty and seventy percent of all charitable organizations rely on the expertise of professional fundraisers to ensure cost savings and professionalism. It is estimated that the "do not call" registry will reduce the number of potential donors that may be solicited on behalf of these non-profit organizations by up to **fifty** percent. Additionally, the **FTC** rule will prevent calls on behalf of nonprofits to prior and longstanding supporters whose names appear on the "do not call" registry.

The use of professional fundraisers is essential for the continued viability of non-profit organizations and it is my hope that legitimate charities and nonprofits would not be affected by

Honorable Timothy J. Muris

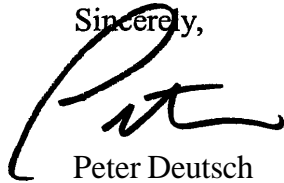
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Congress' intention to protect Americans from fundraising activities by fraudulent, non-profit organizations

In advance, I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Deutsch', written in a cursive style.

Peter Deutsch
Member of Congress

PD:ema