



Special Olympics
Colorado



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Office of the Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
Room 159
600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Secretary:

As the president and CEO of Special Olympics Colorado, I'm writing to express my concern over the proposal to develop a national do-not-call registry. As a private, non-profit organization we rely heavily on the financial support of individual donors, much of which comes through our professional telemarketing efforts.

Thanks to the generous support of our individual donors we are able to provide a year-round sports program to more than 7,000 Special Olympics athletes statewide. Special Olympics Colorado and many other non-profits provide critical services that for-profit business and government agencies do not. These include, but are not limited to mental health services, employment services for people with disabilities, childcare, sports programs for people with disabilities and suicide prevention programs. To limit the ways in which a non-profit can raise money will take away our ability to provide these crucial services. Are the respective states and federal government prepared to fill, and capable of filling, the voids for millions of Americans if the services presently offered were to go away?

Telemarketing exists because it works. We find that people want the convenience of pledging via a phone call. For those individuals who find this form of fundraising intrusive, there are numerous ways to eliminate unwanted calls - an answering machine, phone butler, call blocking, etc. We also manage a do-not-call list with our telemarketing company to honor those specific requests we receive from consumers. When people stop giving via the phone, we will stop calling, but until then, I ask that you give your proposal for a national do-not-call registry serious thought.

For Special Olympics Colorado, telemarketing is much more than "dialing for dollars." Our telemarketing efforts are also a vehicle used to recruit new volunteers and, more importantly, new athletes. Telemarketing also allows us to educate the general public about Special Olympics Colorado and keep them informed of events taking place in their hometowns.

In closing, I want to reiterate my concern over the proposed amendment and the damage it would do to our ability to raise the necessary funds and awareness to provide our services. On behalf of the 7,000 plus Special Olympics athletes in Colorado, I **ask** that you consider excluding calls made on behalf of non-profits from the proposed amendment. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Scott Weaver
President/CEO