

CED RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING “527 GROUPS”

Endorsement Form - Please return by fax to 202-223-0776

TO: Committee for Economic Development
PHONE: 202-296-5860 FAX: 202-223-0776

FROM: Name: _____
Title: _____
Affiliation: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

The recommendations of the Committee for Economic Development (CED) below regarding “527 organizations” are taken from the April 2005 CED policy statement, *Building on Reform: A Business Proposal to Strengthen Election Finance*. CED is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit public policy research organization of over 200 senior corporate executives and university presidents. CED’s goal is to preserve the ban on unlimited and unregulated “soft money” contributions established by the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (BCRA) by preventing Section 527 organizations from circumventing the prohibition.

CED Recommendations Regarding “Section 527 Groups”

We firmly believe that political committees involved in federal elections should be bound by federal regulations and finance their activities solely with regulated (hard money) contributions. We urge Congress to establish regulations to require all 527s to register as political committees with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), except for those that raise and spend money solely in connection with nonfederal elections or selection processes.

Congress must also adopt regulations that specify that Section 527 groups that broadcast advertisements that promote, support, attack, or oppose a federal candidate are to be financed only with monies raised under federal contribution limits. No corporate or labor union contributions should be used for this purpose.

We further recommend that Congress codify rules governing the use of monies by Section 527 committees that engage in activities that influence federal and nonfederal elections. Any group that is registered with the FEC and maintains federal and nonfederal campaign accounts to finance such activities as voter registration or turnout drives should be required to pay half the costs of these activities with hard money contributions. Any nonfederal funds used by a Section 527 committee to pay for activities that require a combination of federal and nonfederal funding should be raised from individual donors and the amount of the contribution that an individual may give should be limited.

-Taken from, *Building on Reform: A Business Proposal to Strengthen Election Finance*, p.18.

I endorse CED’s recommendations regarding Section 527 groups and agree to add my name (and the name of my organization, for identification purposes) to a list of business and civic leaders supporting the recommendations. (*We anticipate including your name on a list of endorsers in future CED campaign finance reform materials. The list will contain a disclaimer stating that your views do not necessarily reflect the views of your organization.*)

While I am unable to endorse the CED recommendations, I am interested in the project and would like to be kept informed.

I am unable to endorse CED’s recommendations.

Below are comments and/or names and contact information of colleagues who should also be contacted about CED’s work on money and politics:
