



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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April 18, 2016

Sent by email only to: [bill@hochberglaw.net](mailto:bill@hochberglaw.net)

WILLIAM D HOCHBERG  
4148 BLVD PLACE  
MERCER ISLAND WA 98040

Subject: Complaint regarding Communication by “Act Now 4 WA Students,” PDC Case No. 4496

Dear Mr. Hochberg:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) has completed its initial review of the complaint you filed on March 30, 2016. Your complaint alleged that the sponsor of a communication identified only through a printed logo reading “Act Now 4 WA Students” may have violated RCW 42.17A.320 by failing to identify the sponsor in the communication or provide contact information.

PDC staff reviewed your allegations to determine whether a formal investigation or enforcement action is warranted. As a result of staff’s initial review, we found the following:

- Our review of the communication at issue in your complaint indicates that it does not solicit votes, financial or other support or opposition in an election campaign, and so does not meet the statutory definition of “political advertising” subject to the sponsor identification requirements of RCW 42.17A.320.
- Rather, the communication directs the reader to contact area legislators and urge them to take action on legislation. This activity, known as “grass roots lobbying,” is governed under a different statute, RCW 42.17A.640.
- Under the law, sponsors of grass roots lobbying communications are not required to disclose the sponsor’s name or contact information on the communication.

Please note that throughout the current legislative session, the organization WA Charters Action has filed PDC L-6 reports of Grass Roots Lobbying activity, disclosing a total of \$590,311 in lobbying expenses as of March 31, 2016. In communications with PDC staff, a representative of WA Charters Action identified “Act Now For Washington Students” as an independently-branded program of the Washington State Charter Schools Association and WA Charters Action.

Based on these initial findings, I have determined that there is no reason to believe a material violation of any law under the Commission's jurisdiction has occurred. For this reason, the PDC has closed the matter, and will not be conducting a more formal investigation into your complaint or pursuing enforcement action in this case.

If you have questions, you may contact Tony Perkins at (360) 586-1042, toll-free at 1-877-601-2828, or by e-mail at [tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov](mailto:tony.perkins@pdc.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Tony Perkins  
Compliance Officer

Endorsed by,



Evelyn Fielding Lopez  
Executive Director

c: Tom Franta, WA State Charter Schools Association