



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CALIFORNIA

January 21, 2016

The Honorable Jodi Remke, Chair  
Fair Political Practices Commission  
428 J Street, Suite 620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Amendments to Regulation 18616--SUPPORT  
Lobbying—Disclosure of Other Payments to Influence**

Dear Chair Remke and Members of the Commission:

The League of Women Voters of California is pleased to support the proposal before the Fair Political Practices Commission to strengthen Regulation 18616 concerning the disclosure of “Other Payments to Influence” by lobbyist employers and persons spending \$5,000 or more to influence legislative or administrative action.

The League of Women Voters has long worked for open, accountable, responsive government at all levels. Lobbying disclosure is an essential aspect of this goal, in order to provide the public with information on the pressures exerted on the policy-making process and to guarantee all persons access to influence the process.

As your staff report notes, special interests across the political spectrum are spending ever greater amounts on “shadow lobbying” aimed at influencing government action without adequate disclosure to the public. Because itemization of “other payments to influence” is not required in lobbying reports, the public is unable to tell who has received those large sums of money and for what purpose.

We fully support the proposed amendments to Regulation 18616 to provide greater transparency and more relevant disclosure of activities by special interest groups seeking to influence public officials, and we applaud your leadership in suggesting these important safeguards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen L. Hutchison".

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Helen L. Hutchison  
President

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