From: Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police **To:** USOGE

Subject: Proposed Ammendment to Part 2635 **Date:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 1:49:14 PM

Incorporated in 1962, the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) has grown in membership, influence and professionalism to become one of the most respected law enforcement associations in the state. It is the largest professional association for law enforcement administrators in Georgia, and one of the largest in the country.

Membership includes more than 1200 executives representing municipal and county law enforcement agencies, college and university police departments, corporate and private security firms, numerous state and federal agencies and concerned citizens who proudly support the efforts of law enforcement administrators throughout the state.

The association's goals are to promote cooperative, professional relationships throughout the state, to evaluate the standards of police institutions and the profession, to offer quality training and continuing education for administrators, and to provide opportunities for police executives to exchange information and experiences.

One of GACP's main objectives is to provide quality training that incorporates and blends professional business practices with law enforcement standards. This training is provided by our association to the agency's CEO as well as his/her Command Staff. The citizens benefit from the knowledge and skills that the people attending this training bring back to their departments, and ultimately, their communities.

We are one of the associations that will be greatly affected by your proposed regulations on lobbying associations' relationships with government employees. We are not a union, but we "fight" for law enforcement rights and better law enforcement standards not only in the State of Georgia, but in the United States of America. We, like so many of the comparable associations across the USA, promote the enhancement of safety and the protection of inalienable rights to the citizens of our communities, our states and our country. We, as a non-profit association, require only reimbursement costs from the government employees that we represent, for the training that we provide to them.

Because of the financial and economical disarray that this country now finds itself, law enforcement has had to mount tremendous budget cuts, which inevitably affects the security of the citizens in our communities. The metropolitan agencies are less affected than the smaller, rural agencies. These smaller, rural agencies represent well over 80% of our law enforcement membership. The training and education provided by our association does not come free. We charge the lowest amount possible to "cover our overhead costs." We do not ask for, nor would we ever take, "bailout" money, as this is frowned upon by so many law-abiding, tax-paying citizens. Therefore, if a CEO of a rural agency wants to receive the same quality of training (and therefore, provide the same quality of service and protection to his/her community) as the metro-agencies, he/she must obtain the funds. But because of severe budgets cuts due to state and federal financial incompetencies, these smaller agencies do not have the funds to properly train their personnel to "protect and serve." Therefore, exceptions can and have been made to allow these CEOs a reduction in the cost of attendance, which affords them and their communities the same quality of training as the larger agencies.

Frankly speaking, I am appalled at the short-sightedness of our federal government to recognize the needs of the citizens of the United States to be protected by dedicated, quality law enforcement officials!

Respectfully,

Frank Vincent Rotondo
Executive Director
Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police