



Written Statement for SOS Rulemaking Hearing on Campaign Finance, December 15, 2012

My name is Lorena Garcia, Executive Director, of Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR), a community-serving organization dedicated to building a movement of Latinas, their families and allies through leadership development, organizing and advocacy to create opportunity and achieve reproductive justice.

As an organization that works with the Latina/o community to both educate and organize on issues that effect families and communities, COLOR believes that public and transparent campaign finance information for voters to be better informed and make more educated choices. We are members of and work in communities that do not always receive the best information. We spend a lot of time educating individuals around issues – and working so that young Latinas receive the necessary information whether it is around voter engagement or women’s reproductive health.

In 2010, COLOR worked with legislators and the Latina/o community to pass and provide comprehensive sexuality education for young Latinas in Denver public schools. We have found the most effective way to improve students’ success rate is to ensure that they have access to comprehensive sexuality education, which is factual and comprehensive, and affordable resources that include contraceptives, so they can make informed decisions about their sexual health. We have seen the results of **access, education, and transparency**.

We know from our programming when youth are provided good information, they have the ability to make good choices – and we know that from our civic engagement work when there is confusion or uncertainty around who or what is pushing an agenda, youth and the Latina/o community feels manipulated and less engaged. Our community deserves to know who is sending them mail, calling or buying TV and radio ads for issues. We demand transparency.

When corporate interests, instead of our communities control the political systems, we have a problem. And when corporate interests are systematically seeking to confuse and misinform our youth and the Latina/o community, we need to take action. Colorado voters have said repeatedly that we want more transparency, not less; we hope that you agree and that corporations are not invited to Colorado in order to further take advantage of our electorate.

As an organization committed to ensuring that youth have access to factually accurate, culturally relevant education, affordable resources about sexuality education, we ask that there must be transparency in this process. Therefore, we ask that the Secretary of State not to adopt proposed rules 1.12, 4.1, and 7.2.3, and 1.18. These rules remove important reporting requirements that ensure our communities receive good information about who is spending money and encourage transparency in elections.

Sincerely,

Lorena Garcia
Executive Director
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
303-393-0382