

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE LOWERING OF THE LOBBYING
REGISTRATION THRESHOLD FROM \$5,000 TO \$500

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo has proposed in his Executive Budget a “Good Government and Ethics Reform Law” which includes a provision in Part R that would lower the annual spending threshold of what is considered “lobbying” from \$5,000 to \$500;

WHEREAS, this legislation would effectively require groups of constituents who spend more than \$500 each year to rent a bus to Albany, buy postcard stamps, order pizza for meetings in the local church basement, or make photocopies, to register as lobbyists, file spending reports 7 times per year, and submit semi-annual reports;

WHEREAS, grassroots activism has always been necessary in pushing forward a legislative agenda that truly embraces social justice;

WHEREAS, it makes no sense to classify regular people who volunteer their free time on behalf of the greater good as lobbyists, or to subject them to the same reporting requirements that actual lobbyists pay full time staff to meet.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

1. We want our elected state representatives to refuse to enact the provision in Part R that would lower the lobbying registration threshold to \$500; and
2. The threshold for lobbying registration should remain at \$5,000.