



★ WASHINGTON WATCH ★

An update on federal action from

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NON-PROFIT GAG AMENDMENT ADDED TO CONTINUING RESOLUTION

On November 7, the compromise version of the Istook Amendment was added to the House Continuing Resolution* (CR) by the House Rules Committee. The following day the House passed the Continuing Resolution, with Istook included by a vote of 230-170. On November 9th the Senate passed the Continuing Resolution with an alternative to the Istook Amendment offered by Senator Alan Simpson and Senator Larry Craig. At the moment we have few details about this version; however, we have been told that the basic principles of the Istook Amendment are included in the Simpson/Craig version.

The Continuing Resolution will now move back to the House. If Representative Istook decides to offer his amendment again on the CR, it will have to go back to the Senate. The Senate has made it clear the Istook Amendment will not pass in the Senate. Because of this we expect the Simpson/Craig version to be included in the Continuing Resolution and passed by the House. Regardless of which version is included in the CR, we need to urge President Clinton to veto the Continuing Resolution. Both Istook and Simpson/Craig legislation place unprecedented restrictions on the ability of nonprofits to participate in the broadest forms of advocacy and require arduous paper work for nonprofits to account for their time and money.

*A Continuing Resolution is a bill that provides bridge funding to permit the government to continue to function in a new fiscal year until appropriations bills are passed. Continuing Resolutions allow programs to operate at a level proportionate to their funding for the previous fiscal year, but in this instance most programs will operate at a level equal to 95% of the average funding in the House and Senate appropriations bills.

URGE THE PRESIDENT TO VETO THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

The only way to stop this appalling gag on nonprofits is to
urge the President to veto the Continuing Resolution
if it contains Istook or Simpson/Craig language.

Call the White House at 202-456-1414 or 202-456-1111 or
e-mail the President at president@whitehouse.gov.

OTHER HAPPENINGS IN D.C.

- To the best of our knowledge, the House and Senate welfare reform conferees are still meeting.
- As we reported last week, the Budget Reconciliation bill (which incorporates significant reductions to Medicaid, Medicare and welfare) passed both the House and the Senate. House conferees have been named; however, there seems to be only a draft list of Senate conferees. Regardless, it is anticipated that President Clinton will be sent a "conferenced" Reconciliation bill before Thanksgiving.

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