

**Written Testimony before Senate Elections and Local Government Committee
in Support of Senate Bill 26
by Carol Williams, Executive Director
February 3, 2015**

The Commission does not take a position on Senate Bill 26. My comments are being made to clarify what the bill does not do. As drafted, SB 26 would permit a candidate to use campaign funds for expenses incurred for travel, lodging and purchase of tickets to events sponsored by any organization whose major purpose is to promote or facilitate the social, business, commercial, economic or governmental well being of the state or local community. As drafted, this bill would not permit a candidate to use campaign funds for his or her spouse's travel, lodging, etc. It was my understanding from the committee's conversation last month this bill was to address the expenses associated with spouse travel, lodging, and meals. If the intent of this bill was to include spouse in the new language found on lines 27-31, or if the new language in the bill was meant for a spouse, this bill should be amended to do so.