



LOBBYING COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING
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Public Comment

My name is Michelle Jackson, Policy Analyst for the Human Services Council of New York City. I would like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to comment on the dual filing requirements for New York City and State.

The Human Services Council of New York City (HSC) is a coalition of nearly 200 not-for-profits strengthening the human services sector's ability to serve New Yorkers in need. As a non-partisan intermediary between government agencies and member organizations, we passionately champion the sector. We proactively negotiate with State and City government for mutually beneficial, solutions-based budget, policy, and legislative reform that improve our constituents' work and the lives of the individuals they serve.

Like many policy makers, the not-for-profit community is committed to meeting the needs and enriching the lives of New York's residents through a broad array of high quality services. Good communication between policy makers and service providers is a fundamental component of the development of sound services systems. Some nonprofits are captured under both City and State lobby laws, and the dual reporting requirements pose a substantial burden on these groups.

Eliminate Unnecessary Double Reporting

As you know, lobbying entities are required under state law to register and report lobbying activity to the New York State Commission on Public Integrity. If the organization is also lobbying in New York City, it is also obligated to report the same activity to both the Commission on Public Integrity and the City Clerk. Because a simple search on the State's website easily reveals lobbying activity and expense records for New York City activity, we propose amending the Act such that those entities reporting to the Commission on Public Integrity would not have to also report their City level activities and expenses to the City Clerk.

This would enable the City Clerk to focus its limited staff time and other resources on those organizations not already subject to the State's more extensive audit and investigation systems.

We applaud the Commission's work in making our public policy processes more transparent, preventing conflicts of interest, and reducing the influence of powerful lobbying entities. Government enjoys a long and rich tradition of collaboration between the not-for-profit community and policy makers. As the State and City's partners in the delivery of social, cultural, educational, and many other services, not-for-profit providers are encouraged by efforts to make government more responsive to the needs of the public over special interest groups with deep pockets.

Please feel free to contact me at (212) 836-1588 / jacksonm@humanservicescouncil.org if you have any questions.