

I am the Executive Director of Special Olympics Ohio, the state-wide chapter of the world-wide organization conducting sports training and competition for mentally handicapped citizens.

As a charitable organization that must raise almost every dollar from private sources, we are extremely dependent on small donations from individuals and small businesses that are generated through direct response service bureaus. As a matter of fact, nearly one half of the over two million dollars needed to serve our eighteen thousand deserving athletes is dependent on such telemarketing efforts.

Our organization including our athletes, parents, volunteers and families are very opposed to the current proposal to implement a National do not call registry. Should this proposal go into effect, as is, it would severely impact on our ability to serve our athletes. Research has shown that participation in Special Olympics serves to help the individual become a better citizen, employee and yes a taxpayer. These people deserve and gain benefit in very real ways from Special Olympics involvement. The adoption of this would greatly negatively impact the delivery of Special Olympics participation to these citizens.

Please reject this proposed change to exempt non-profit organizations from it's impact. Failure to do so can only have dozens of dersrving causes reduce or eliminate services.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Rickard
Executive Director
Special Olympics Ohio