

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 2003-13

Issued On November 6, 2003 By The

WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION

OPINION SOUGHT

A **State employee** asks whether she may solicit financial support for a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting family planning and protecting reproductive freedom.

FACTS RELIED UPON BY THE COMMISSION

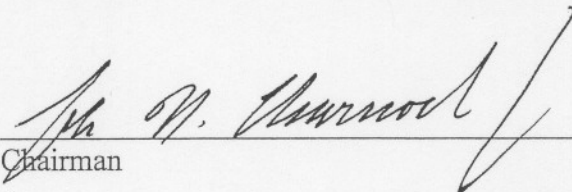
The corporation uses public education campaigns and political lobbying to protect the right to choose in accordance with *Roe v. Wade*, ensure and increase accessibility to birth control and pre-natal care, and improve education on reproductive choices.

CODE PROVISIONS RELIED UPON BY COMMISSION

WV Code 6B-2-5(c) *Gifts*. – (1) A public official or public employee may not solicit any gift unless the solicitation is for a charitable purpose ...

ADVISORY OPINION

The Ethics Act prohibits public servants from soliciting a gift, unless it is for a charitable purpose. The Commission finds that the corporation's activities do not constitute a "charitable purpose" as that term is used by the Legislature in the Ethics Act and the Employee should not solicit on its behalf.


Chairman