

Pamela Williams

From: Andy Moore <director@foioklahoma.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2020 7:34 AM
To: ethics
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RULE COMMENT 2021-02

We believe that the public has a right to know when elected officials receive money or any other thing of value from lobbyists. There is little debate that flyers, handouts, and similar "one-pagers" should not be considered "things of value," nor should most books. However, we foresee a potential ethical issue when the value of a book or printed material exceeds a certain dollar value.

The *spirit* of the rule hinges on the *value*, not the nature of the item. Regardless of whether it is a book or any other item, if the value exceeds a certain threshold (in this case \$100), we believe it should be reported publicly.

We also acknowledge that the proposed changes do not actually *forbid* lobbyists from providing expensive books, they would merely require them to be disclosed. Given the relatively small number of items that would be affected, this change seems both reasonable and appropriate.

Freedom of Information Oklahoma supports the adoption of Amendments 1, 2 and 3 as proposed, and we appreciate the Ethics Commission's diligent work in ensuring the free flow of information to the public.

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