

## Andrea Gyger

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**From:** Paul Hsieh <paulhsiehmd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2011 8:39 PM  
**To:** Andrea Gyger  
**Subject:** Public comment on "8 CCR 1505-6"

**Categories:** Rules

Dear Ms. Gyger:

I would like to submit the following public comment on "8 CCR 1505-6" and "Proposed Revisions and Amendments to the Secretary of State's 'Rules Concerning Campaign and Political Finance'":

I am a practicing physician here in Colorado and I became interested in health care policy in 2007. Since that time, I've written numerous articles and editorials on the topic of health care reform which have been published in regional and national outlets, including the Denver Post, Boulder Daily Camera, Rocky Mountain News, Christian Science Monitor, and Washington Times.

However, during some of the most important state-level debates in 2008 and 2010, I felt that I had to be very careful about writing about any proposed state ballot initiatives, lest I inadvertently run afoul of the Colorado's campaign finance laws. I do all my health policy writing in my spare time, in addition to my full time job as a physician. Hence, I don't have the time to research all the intricacies of the state campaign finance law (or to hire someone to do it for me). The last thing I wanted was for some well-heeled opposing political organization to use the law against me -- for instance by filing a complaint against me with the Secretary of State.

I therefore found that CO's campaign finance laws had a very chilling effect on my ability to comment freely on state ballot initiatives.

Our political system should allow all individuals to freely express their political viewpoints without fear of legal repercussions and it should leave the voters free to decide the merits of the competing ideas for themselves. We should not restrict political speech with campaign finance laws that disproportionately discourage small or part-time citizen-activists such as myself from participating in the public debate.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paul Hsieh, MD

Sedalia, CO

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