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March 27, 2002

Mr. Steve Young
Grand Lodge Fraternal Order of Police
1410 Donelson Pike, Suite A-17
Nashville, Tennessee 37217

Dear Steve:

Thank you for contacting me to discuss the Crimes Against Charitable Americans Act. I always appreciate hearing from members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

As you well know, America is a generous and compassionate nation. In times of crisis, the American people open their hearts and their pocketbooks to aid their fellow citizens in need. Tragically, this support has proven an irresistible target to criminals who prey upon the generous and good-hearted nature of Americans. Each year, well-meaning Americans unwittingly contribute an estimated \$1.5 billion to fraudulent charities. All too often, these criminals prey on their well-intentioned victims by posing as representatives of law enforcement or firefighter organizations. Not only do these criminals steal valuable resources from worthy recipients, but they erode the trust of the American people in legitimate charitable organizations, like the Fraternal Order of Police.

In an effort to protect generous citizens and the charitable institutions they support, I was proud to introduce the Crimes Against Charitable Americans Act and secure its inclusion in the USA PATRIOT Act. This legislation strengthens federal laws regulating charitable phone solicitations. The bill also takes important steps to combat deceptive charitable solicitations by requiring telemarketers to make common sense disclosures such as the charity's identity and address at the beginning of the phone call.

Several months after the enactment of the Crimes Against Charitable Americans Act, the FTC proposed the establishment of a federal, centralized "do-not-call" registry. If this new rule is adopted, individuals could place their names on the "do-not-call" list and telemarketers would be prohibited from calling them. It is worth noting that the FTC's proposed "do-not-call" list would not apply to charitable or benevolent organizations, but would apply to any authorized agents they may hire to solicit donations.

The FTC proposed this new regulation on January 22, 2002 - almost three months after the USA PATRIOT Act was signed into law. When Congress enacted this legislation, it did not envision, nor did it intend for, the FTC to propose a federal "do-not-call" list. I understand that the FOP and other benevolent organizations which supported the Crimes Against Charitable Americans Act are deeply concerned that this new, unanticipated FTC requirement will hinder their ability to raise charitable contributions. I want to assure you that I understand these concerns and have communicated them to the FTC. I also informed the FTC that this legislation never intended,

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called-for, required, or even envisioned the "do-not-call" list it is now proposing.

Again, thank you for calling this important matter to my attention. I look forward to working with you and the FOP on issues of concern to America's law enforcement community.

Sincerely,



MITCH MCCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM:sr