



Liberate the Artist

ADAM FOREST HUTTLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 13, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

Fractured Atlas is proud to be a National CoSponsor of Arts Advocacy Day 2007.

Fractured Atlas is a non-profit organization that represents over 30,000 individual artists and small arts organizations throughout the country. We help artists and arts organizations function more effectively as businesses by providing access to funding, healthcare, education, and more, all in a context that honors their individuality and independent spirit.

On behalf of our member artists, I would like to call your attention to two important issues facing our community:

Federal Regulation of Association-Based Health Insurance

Fractured Atlas is the nation's leading provider of affordable health insurance to arts industry professionals. We take pride in our accomplishments in this arena and we work hard every day to improve the quality and affordability of our programs. Our job is made much more difficult than it should be, however, by the current state-based model for healthcare regulation. The time and energy we spend grappling with the minutia of fifty different sets of rules could be better spent educating, assisting, and advocating on our members' behalf. I urge you to consider proposals for permitting legitimate national non-profit organizations like Fractured Atlas to offer federally regulated, ERISA-qualified health insurance plans. Since the state insurance departments now serve as vital guardians of consumer protections, it is important that such a shift be coupled with a thoughtful strengthening of the protections provided under federal regulation.

Unified Registration and Reporting for Charities

Increasingly, charitable organizations of all kinds are turning to the internet for their fundraising activities. Email and web-based fundraising campaigns have proven themselves to be highly successful and extremely cost-effective. Unfortunately, our nation's system for regulating the fundraising activities of charities is based on an older model, when fundraising was primarily conducted locally. Asking charities who solicit donations online to register and file annually with fifty different state charities bureaus poses an undo burden, especially for smaller organizations. The United States Congress should undertake to simplify this process by introducing a single, unified registration and reporting agency for charities who conduct online fundraising activities.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adam Forest Huttler
Executive Director