



**Testimony of the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations
(PAGR)
Joint Public Hearing
Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development and
House Gaming Oversight Committees
February 2, 2010
Peter N. Calcara, President**

Good morning. My name is Peter Calcara and I am the President of the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations, otherwise known as PAGR. PAGR's mission is to promote the purpose and effectiveness of the lobbying profession consistent with the public interest. Although we encourage our members to follow the law and the regulations, it is not part of PAGR's mission to determine whether our members should register under the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Our association and its' members encourage high standards of personal and professional conduct among all lobbyists. Currently, there are approximately 200 members of PAGR while the number of registered lobbyists in the Commonwealth totals more than a 1,000. PAGR's membership is vast and diverse, consisting of the following categories: Association Lobbyists, Corporate Lobbyists, Independent Lobbyists, Lawyer-Lobbyists, Associate Members and Legislative Liaisons.

In order to make its members more effective lobbyists, PAGR has taken the initiative to educate its membership about issues affecting the lobbying profession and this includes the newly-enacted Lobbying Disclosure Law and its accompanying regulations and manual. Every year, PAGR holds a one-day conference entitled "Lobbypalooza," where issues and topics important to PAGR's membership are discussed and debated. Just this past October, one of the topics discussed dealt with the Lobbying Disclosure Act's final regulations, which were promulgated in April of 2009. PAGR's bi-monthly membership meetings and newsletters also serve as great resources for the membership by providing members with both an oral and written forum to discuss issues related to the lobbying profession, which has included the Lobbying Disclosure Act. When discussing the Lobbying Disclosure Act, we typically invite members and staff of the Legislature as well as individuals from the Department of State and the Ethics Commission to address our membership. They provide guidance to our membership

regarding both the Act and the regulations. Please know that PAGR will continue to educate its members about the Lobbying Disclosure Act and its accompanying regulations and manual.

It is my understanding that one of the purposes of today's meeting is to explore and clarify relevant provisions of the Lobbying Disclosure Law. Please know that I am not an attorney and so I am not in a position to offer guidance to this committee on what certain words mean based on case law or statutory interpretation. My fellow panelists Barry Kauffman and Chet Harhut are in a more suitable position to offer this kind of advice and guidance to the committee than I. We believe that the Lobbying Disclosure Act, its regulations and manual speak for themselves. Thank you for allowing me to testify before this joint committee and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

***Post Office Box 116, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0116 • (717) 540-4391 • (717) 657-9708
fax • www.pagr.org***