

EWC Policy for Students Regarding Lobbying

Updated November 30, 2020

As a public non-profit corporation, which was established by the U.S. Congress and is a recipient of federal government funding, the East-West Center (EWC) is generally prohibited from engaging in propaganda, lobbying, or actively participating in/contributing to a political campaign for a candidate for office (“Prohibited Activities”).

“Lobbying” can include attempting to influence legislation, or actively participating in/contributing to a political campaign for a candidate for office.

“Legislation” includes federal, state and county legislation, public referendum ballot initiative, constitutional amendment or others.

Acts construed as attempts to “influence legislation” can include contacting or urging the public to contact members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting or opposing legislation; it can also mean advocating for the adoption or rejection of legislation.

“Contacting” can include making phone calls, writing letters and emails, sending faxes, writing blog-posts or editorials, or some other mechanism for conveying a message.

Pursuant to these authorities, ***EWC students and student organizations may not participate in Prohibited Activities in a way that suggests that they are acting on behalf of EWC.***

This policy does not apply to EWC students’ expression of their personal opinions and views and does not preclude EWC students from taking action and engaging in the political process in a way that does not suggest that they are acting on behalf of EWC.

In addition, EWC organizations may participate in nonpartisan analysis, study or research of legislation. For example, EWC organizations may distribute the text of proposed legislation or educational materials without advocating for certain action. Neutral informational language on legislation is not prohibited.