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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL ADVOCATES, INC. LAUNCHES EXPANDED FEDERAL GRANT SERVICE

On November 16, Senate Republicans adopted a voluntary ban on earmarks. On November 18, House Republicans followed suit by deciding to continue their voluntary ban on earmarks in the 112th Congress. Senate and House Democrats, conversely, continue to support including earmarks in the appropriations process, maintaining that earmarks are a legitimate way to direct taxpayer money to their constituents. While neither Senate nor House Republicans have thus far passed a binding moratorium on earmarks (on November 30, Senate Republicans led a failed effort to invoke a ban on FY11 appropriation earmarks), the issue is likely to be revisited in the new session that begins in January, although at this time it is not clear what the outcome will be.

Even though earmarks account for less than 0.5 percent of Federal spending and have been under fire for half the decade, many Republican candidates seized on them this election season as a symbol of out-of-control and/or misplaced Federal spending.

What is not known by most is that banning earmarks does NOT result in reduced spending – it only means that those earmark funds go to the various Executive Branch agencies. Therefore, while a ban, if implemented, is likely to impact adversely entities that seek earmarks for their project funding, an alternative exists at the agencies in the form of grants – either discretionary funds at the Secretaries' level or via specific programs.

There are currently over 1,000 grant programs administered by 26 Federal agencies providing more than \$400 billion to states and local governments through grants, formula allocations, and other payments. These grant programs are authorized and not slated for termination or cuts in the coming years. Although Federal priorities among these grants can and will change in coming years – as they do nearly every year – most programs will continue, and new ones will emerge.

Recognizing this, Federal Advocates is pleased to announce a significant expansion of its current grant solicitation client service. This is premised not only on the uncertainty with respect to banning earmarks, but also because many of our clients lack the resources to identify, assess, write, submit and pursue Federal grant opportunities.

The Expanded Grant Service

Commencing January 1, 2011, Federal Advocates' newly expanded grant service allows us on your behalf to cover more agencies; identify prospective opportunities faster and more efficiently; deliver more detailed information about such opportunities; conduct research to answer any questions that may arise throughout this process; assist in the writing and submission of applications; and provide advocacy support.

The following summarizes the unique services and features that comprise our expanded grant service and make us a strong advocate for our clients:

Grant Needs Assessment

We will work with you to identify your specific programmatic needs, goals and objectives in anticipation of relevant grant opportunities.

Grant Identification and Announcement

We will communicate with Federal agencies to identify prospective grant opportunities and highlight them to you via e-mail in a simple, yet comprehensive format.

Grant Research

We will answer questions that may arise in the grant identification, research, writing and submission process, and provide research targeted to your specific grant needs, goals and objectives.

Grant Writing

We will make available as necessary, at cost to the client, a grant writing service with which we have partnered to ensure that your project stands a better chance of being funded by creating an application that is both compelling and competitive.

Grant Advocacy

We will work closely with Members of Congress and key contacts in the various Federal agencies to ensure that your grant application gets maximum visibility and support.

Grant Award

We will assist in meeting post-award needs including all reporting requirements and critical deadlines.

Please see the attached sample of our new grant notice Factsheet.

If you'd like more information about this topic, please call Michael Esposito at (202) 351-6855 or email Michael at mesposito@federaladvocates.com

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