



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 10, 2006

**H.R. 1606
Online Freedom of Speech Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on House Administration
on March 9, 2006*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1606 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. H.R. 1606 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Under the Federal Election Campaign Act, a regulated “federal election activity” includes “public communications,” such as broadcast, cable, satellite, or newspaper communication to the general public. In October 2002, the Federal Election Commission promulgated regulations to exempt communications over the Internet from the definition of “public communications.” H.R. 1606 would amend federal law to codify the current exemption of Internet communications from the definition of public communications. Because the legislation would not change any current policy or practice, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1606 would have no significant impact on the budget.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.