



OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

August 5, 2016

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Blackburn:

Thank you for your July 15, 2016 follow-up letter regarding the Bill, Hillary, and Chelsea Clinton Foundation (Foundation), a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. In your letter, you express concerns regarding media reports “raising significant issues of public corruption.” You also raise concerns about the Foundation’s compliance with tax laws.

The concerns you raise appear to fall outside of the Commission’s authority, which encompasses neither public corruption nor tax laws. As a civil law enforcement agency, the Commission lacks the ability to investigate criminal allegations of public corruption. In addition, the Commission generally lacks jurisdiction over non-profit entities under the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44, though we can take action against unfair or deceptive practices, such as misrepresentations to donors by a “sham charity,” when we can establish that the entity claiming to be a charity is in fact operating for its own profit or that of its members. I can assure you that we do monitor the marketplace with respect to issues that fall within our jurisdiction.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Commission’s attention. If you or your staff have any questions or additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Jeanne Bumpus, the Director of our Office of Congressional Relations, at (202) 326-2946.

Sincerely,

Edith Ramirez
Chairwoman