Prior Authorization
Frequently asked questions

What is AFSAPAC and why is it important?
AFSAPAC is the voluntary, nonpartisan political action committee of the American Financial Services Association. AFSAPAC enhances the consumer finance industry’s voice in Washington, DC, by supporting candidates for federal office who recognize the importance of AFSA’s mission to preserve access to credit and consumer choice. Congress’ decisions have a significant impact on the future of the consumer finance industry. A strong PAC allows AFSA to play a larger role in shaping this future.

What is “Prior Authorization” and why do I/my company need to sign a form?
The Federal Election Commission (FEC) requires our political action committee to obtain written authorization from corporate members before it may solicit and accept contributions from employees of the member company. Granting prior authorization does not obligate the company or its employees to support the PAC – it simply gives us permission to communicate about the PAC to certain employees (a member’s owners/principals, managers, professional personnel, and other salaried, exempt employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act). The company’s primary representative with AFSA, or other authorized employee, must sign the form.

What is a solicitation?
The Federal Election Commission (FEC) has a very broad view of the term "solicitation." The FEC considers a solicitation “any statement that provides the recipient with information about the PAC and the PAC’s need for or collection of contributions.” This includes the PAC’s website.

Do I have to sign a Prior Authorization form every year? Can I withdraw authorization?
Only one authorization form is required per company; however, a signature is required for each year such authorization is approved. A company can provide authorization for up to five years and may withdraw such authorization at any time.

If our company signs a Prior Authorization form, can a company employee contribute to other PACs for a calendar year?
Yes, when a company signs an AFSAPAC Prior Authorization form, it does not preclude company employees from contributing to a state PAC, candidate PAC, corporate PAC, or an ideological PAC. Authorization is limited to one trade association per calendar year.

Questions?
Please do not hesitate to contact Susan Sullivan, AFSA’s Manager of Congressional Affairs, at ssullivan@afsamail.org or 202-776-7306 with any questions about AFSA-PAC or the prior authorization requirement. Additional information about the PAC is also available on AFSAPAC’s website at www.afsapac.org. Please note that due to FEC requirements, prior authorization is required to access the AFSAPAC website.