

663-4114 (this is not a toll-free number). Only comments of six or fewer pages will be accepted via FAX transmittal. This limitation is necessary to assure access to the equipment. Receipt of FAX transmittals will not be acknowledged, except that the sender may request confirmation of receipt by calling the Executive Secretariat staff at (202) 663-4070 (voice) or (202) 663-4074 (TTY) (these are not toll-free telephone numbers). Copies of comments submitted by the public will be available to review at the Commission's library, Room 6502, 1801 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20507 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Fisher, Acting Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, 1801 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20507, (202) 663-4056 (voice). This notice is available in the following formats: Large print, braille, audio tape and electronic file on computer disk. Requests for this notice in an alternative format should be made to the Publications Center at 1-800-699-3362.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) enforces title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Pay Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Rehabilitation Act, title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Pregnancy Employment Discrimination Act. Pursuant to its authority under those statutes, EEOC launched the "Freedom to Compete" (FTC) initiative, a national outreach, education and coalition-building strategy designed to complement the agency's enforcement and litigation efforts by identifying EEO practices and programs worthy of emulation. The Commission has built and seeks to further build partnerships and strategic alliances with various stakeholders that can directly and indirectly ensure equal opportunity in the nation's workplaces. One component of this initiative is the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Freedom to Compete" Award. The Award is designed to recognize employers, organizations and entities whose extraordinary efforts embody the EEOC's mission of ensuring individuals the freedom to compete in the workplace on a level playing field regardless of race, color, gender, age, national origin, religion or disability. The Award will be presented to entities that have demonstrated exemplary efforts in promoting free and unfettered access to opportunities in the workplace. The Award will be based on nominations received from the public.

This notice concerns the nomination form which constitutes a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, and OMB regulation 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), the Commission solicits public comment on its proposed nomination form to enable it to:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

The remainder of this **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section provides the public with information it will need to comment on the EEOC proposal. It contains an overview of the information collection and the proposed nomination form.

Overview of This Information Collection

Collection Title: Nomination for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Freedom to Compete" Award.

OMB Number: None.

Description of Affected Public: Individuals or households; Businesses or other for profit, Not-for-profit institutions; State or local governments.

Number of Responses: 100.

Estimated Reporting Time Per Respondent: 10 hours.

Total Burden Hours: 1,000 hours.

Federal Cost: None

*Form—*Nomination Form for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Freedom To Compete" Award.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Freedom to Compete" Award is designed to recognize organizations and individuals whose extraordinary efforts embody the EEOC's mission of ensuring individuals the freedom to compete in the workplace on a level playing field and

to go as far as their talent and abilities will allow regardless of race, color, gender, age, national origin, religion or disability. Award winners will be given the Commission's "Freedom to Compete" Award, which will be presented by the Chair of the Commission at an annual ceremony in Washington, DC. All nominees will be required to disclose any charges and litigation involving the statutes enforced by the Commission. Receipt of the "Freedom to Compete" Award does not constitute a waiver by the Commission nor will it be considered with respect to any future charges and investigations against nominees or award recipients. Background: In 2002, under the leadership of Chair Cari M. Dominguez, EEOC launched the "Freedom to Compete" (FTC) initiative, a national outreach, education and coalition-building strategy designed to complement the agency's enforcement and litigation efforts by identifying EEO practices and programs worthy of emulation. The Commission has built and seeks to further build partnerships and strategic alliances with various stakeholders that can directly and indirectly influence positive change in the nation's workplaces. The Award will be presented to individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exemplary efforts in promoting free and unfettered access to opportunities in the workplace. The Award will be called the "Freedom to Compete" Award.

Eligibility Criteria: The following criteria apply to the Freedom to Compete Award Nominees:

A. The nominees must be public or private employers, corporations, associations, organizations, or others whose activities exemplify the goals of the Chair's "Freedom to Compete" initiative. Nominees may self-nominate or be nominated by others.

B. Nominees must have implemented a program or practice that has successfully removed barriers that hinder free and fair workplace competition and increased access, inclusion, and/or promotional opportunities for qualified workers. The program or practice must involve one or more of the following components: innovative leadership, outreach, education, recruitment, training/development, promotion, retention, and/or mentoring.

C. Nominees must report any unresolved violations of state or Federal law, or any pending Federal or state enforcement actions, any corrective actions or consent decrees that have resulted from litigation under the laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.