



Subject: Restrictions on Lobbying

Text:

“No person who has served as President, Vice-President, Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, or in the Executive Office of the President is eligible thereafter to serve as a registered lobbyist for domestic or foreign clients.

“No person who has served as a registered lobbyist for domestic or foreign clients is eligible thereafter to serve as President, Vice-President, Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, or in the Executive Office of the President.

“No person who has served in a regulatory capacity in the Federal Government is eligible thereafter to serve as a registered lobbyist for domestic or foreign clients.

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Reform Category(ies):

- ☒ Anti-Corruption, Transparency, Accountability
- ☐ Counter-Majoritarian Requirements
- ☐ Democratic Processes
- ☐ Enhanced Rights/Protections
- ☐ Limits to Political Power/Immunities
- ☐ Necessary Clarifications
- ☒ Responsible Government
- ☐ Separation of Powers/Check and balances

Branch(es) targeted:

- ☒ Legislative ☒ Executive ☐ Judicial

Justification:

Federal regulation and economic policymaking has been corrupted to a staggering degree. Unprincipled lobbyists trade financial support (either immediate campaign-related contributions or promises of future employment) to purchase friendly laws, policies, and rhetoric. Many

lobbyists serve periodically in government to exert influence directly. This amendment would limit the “revolving door” and decrease financial rewards for corrupt behavior.

Alternatives to Amendment? Perhaps. Legal reform could, in theory, fix this, but 1) satisfactory legislation is unlikely to emerge from a corrupted Congress, and 2) such restrictions on future employment may not survive inevitable court challenges. Advocacy for an Constitutional amendment, even if ultimately unsuccessful, might empower reformers in and outside Congress.

Similar proposals:

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