

# GOALS FOR LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT AMENDMENTS

## **Stop stealth lobbying**

Amend the definition of lobbyist to remove the 20% exemption.

## **Increase reporting of all significant contacts made by lobbyists including name of member of Congress or executive branch official**

Define “significant contact” as an oral, written or electronic communication to a covered executive branch or legislative branch official made to influence an official action.

## **Provide for real time online registration of lobbyists**

Require lobbyists to register online within 72 hours of making a lobbying contact or being hired to make a lobbying contact.

## **Require real time online reports of significant contacts**

Require lobbyists to report within 72 hours any significant contacts with covered executive or legislative branch officials.

Each report shall contain:

- the name of the covered legislative or executive branch official with whom a lobbying contact was made
- a summary of the nature of the contact, including the date of the contact; the specific action or actions requested of the covered legislative branch official during the contact; and if the contact was made on behalf of a client, the name of the client.

(Note: This would not change the quarterly reports required to identify clients and estimate income.)

## **Require real time online reports of contributions by lobbyists**

Require lobbyists to report contributions, including bundled contributions, within 72 hours of making the contribution.

## **Require disclosure of bundled contributions made by non-registered lobbyists**

Amend FECA to require political committees to file a separate schedule setting forth the name, address, and employer of each person reasonably known by the committee who provided bundled contributions to the committee over a threshold amount during the covered period.

This information shall be made publicly available by the Federal Election Commission in a manner that is searchable, sortable, downloadable and machine

readable, and shall be linked to the lobbying disclosure web sites of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

**Require reporting significant contacts by people who bundle contributions**

Campaign committees shall forward to each named contributor of a bundled contribution notice that he or she has been identified in the committees campaign finance report.

Bundlers are thereby put on notice that they will then be required to report significant contacts with covered legislative and executive branch officials. LDA reporting requirements will apply.

**Require disclosure of Astroturf lobbying activities paid for by registered lobbyists and professional Astroturf lobbying firms.**

Require professional “Astroturf” lobbying firms to register and report the amounts they receive to conduct Astroturf lobbying campaigns.

Require registered lobbyists to report a good faith estimate of the aggregate amount they spend on “Astroturf” lobbying efforts—efforts to communicate to the general public, not their own members—if the spending is more than \$25,000 during a quarter.

Define “paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying” as any paid attempt to influence the general public to contact one or more covered legislative or executive branch officials to urge such officials to take specific action. It does not include any communications by an entity directed to its members, employees, officers, or shareholders. Excludes an attempt to influence directed at less than 500 members of the general public.

Define “grassroots lobbying firm” as person or entity that is retained by 1 or more clients to engage in paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying and receives income of, or spends or agrees to spend, an aggregate of \$25,000 or more for such efforts in any quarterly period.

Require Astroturf lobbying firms to register with the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House within 72 hours of being retained to engage in paid efforts to stimulate grassroots lobbying.

**Require all lobbyists to use the LDA definitions of lobbying**

Ensure comprehensive reporting of lobbying and comparability of reports by requiring all registrants to use the LDA definitions of lobbying instead of allowing them to chose between the LDA definitions and two different IRS definitions.