

LOBBYISTS

Lobbyists

- ⦿ Many interest groups maintain lobbyists
- ⦿ Lobbyists are paid money by interest groups or companies and in return they try to influence members of Congress
- ⦿ “K Street”
 - The street in Washington where lobby firms are located
- ⦿ Lobbyists are typically:
 - Former members of Congress
 - Former staffers, or
 - Lawyers

Positives

- ◎ Lobbyists....
 - Write speeches
 - Draft legislation
 - Provide information
 - They help make the job of members of Congress easier

Lobby Regulation

⦿ Abuses:

- False or misleading testimony is given before Congress
- Bribery

⦿ Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995

- Requires lobbyists to register
- Disclose their clients
- Report about their lobbying activities

Jack Abramoff

- Best example of a corrupt lobbyist
- He stole \$20 million from his clients