

It is also important to consider the practical implementation of the definition of lobbying, that is, what specific activities are included. It would seem logical that it would include attempting to influence the making or amending of legislation or regulations. However, would it extend to attempting to influence the making or changing of federal policies and programs? Would it include influencing decisions on the awarding of grants or contracts? What would be the situation with regard to attempting to influence federal appointments to public office? It is arguable that those who only arrange contacts and meetings for clients are not lobbying and neither are those who gather information from governmental sources and distribute it to their clients?

The definition of lobbying is also important because through it we address the question of who is to be included as the recipient or object of the lobbying activity. Should lobbying include activities directed toward only those who are legislators, or their staffs, or should it extend beyond them into the executive and the bureaucracy?

Which Lobbyists Should be Required to Register?

Your Committee has had to contend with competing interests and arguments regarding who should be included within the group which would be subject to a registration system. To put the question in its most simple terms, how wide should the net be cast or which lobbying groups should be subject to disclosure?

Arguments have been made that only those who are paid for lobbying activities should be required to register. If this is accepted as a valid criterion then the question must be asked should the net be cast beyond those who are retained to act on behalf of third parties to present their views to government? After this group is identified it becomes more difficult to determine who should be included in the class of lobbyist. For example, should it include those who are in full-time employment in a government relations department of a private company? Should the single interest group established for the promotion of one cause and then disbanded be included? Should non-profit organizations be