Drutman, Lee. “How Corporate Lobbyists Conquered American Democracy.” *The Atlantic, Atlantic Media Company*, 20 Apr. 2015, https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/04/how-corporate-lobbyists-conquered-american-democracy/390822/.

lobbyists spend so much money that the combined total of 2.6 billion is more than the 2 billion dollars spent funding the house and senate. For every dollar spent on lobbying by labor unions and public interest groups, large corporations spend $34, 95% of companies that are lobbying, lobby for business interests. Back in the 50s and 60s, lobbying was a much less effective method. Since then, businesses have pivoted, from avoiding politics and staying completely separate, to seeing it as a valuable asset to increase profits. For example, medicare, this would negatively impact profits and benefit the people, so naturally the companies lobbied against it. Lobbyists have stated that the most important reason to lobby is to “to protect the company against changes in government policy.” And the second is “Need to improve ability to compete by seeking favorable changes in government policy.”

Waltz, Daniel E, et al. “At a Glance: Government Lobbying in USA.” *Lexology*, Squire Patton Boggs, 7 Apr. 2021, https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=cd164787-6823-4db9-a32d-1eab693572ae.

there are 2 statues under which lobbying is regulated: “The Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA), which is the primary source of regulation over individuals, corporations, and other entities seeking to influence the direction of policy by the legislative and executive branches” and Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) which was implemented to make “certain foreign entities” document what they are trying to accomplish with influencing the united states (mostly the nazi party). Lobbying is made very easy, there is not much more needed than the name of the lobbyist, contact info, and general subject matter. At the extreme end, some states require the lobbyists to wear nametags. They are not required to write down what they were talking about. In their quarterly reports, they only need to disclose their general interest. Semi annually, the lobbyist must disclose who they are paying

“Is Lobbying Good or Bad?” *RepresentUs*, 3 Jan. 2023, https://represent.us/action/is-lobbying-good-or-bad/.

there’s nothing inherently wrong with lobbying. The problem with lobbying stems from the money that lobbyists use to buy influence. Lobbyists lobby for their own interest, over the people’s. congressmembers need about 14k dollars a day to win a senate seat, so they have an interest in making lots of money. Just giving the congressmember a lot of money is illegal so you hire a lobbying firm, create a fundraiser, and then give him all the money that you paid the fund raiser, now it is not illegal the return on interest is insanely high, on average 76,000%. For every dollar a company spends on lobbying, they usually get about 760 back. Politicians get job offers from lobbying firms, this makes the politician want to do more for the firm, and after they retire and become a lobbyist, their pay increases by on average 1452%. Banning lobbyists is not an option, it gives power to the people. The solution is to create local laws, that at some point reach critical mass, and a federal law is pretty much forced to pass.

Biased for lobbying bad

Wallach, Philip A. “America's Lobbying Addiction.” *Brookings, Brookings*, 29 July 2016, https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2015/04/13/americas-lobbying-addiction/.

lobbying is very lucrative, with revenues of 3.31 billion. Companies that start lobbying rarely ever stop, instead they keep increasing the amount they pay. Its hard to say whether lobbying is beneficial in the long run to companies, as they keep lobbying to make lobbying more widespread. Lobbyists are making it harder and harder to do anything in the government without hiring one of them. lobbyists are consciously doing this. There is an opposing anti corporate force that is rising in power. Corporations still spend 34x more than non-corporation.

Weiser, Daniel. “Why Lobbying Is Legal and Important in the U.S.” *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 13 July 2022, https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/043015/why-lobbying-legal-and-important-us.asp#:~:text=Lobbying%20is%20an%20important%20lever,to%20gain%20power%20in%20numbers.

Congress is making changes making it easier to lobby. Lobbying is often mistaken as bribery, they are public campaigns to pressure the government. Lobbying is protected by the first amendment. Lobbying is good for letting the population have access to legislators. Provides access to the government legislatures that no individual would be able to do. Instead of having to do things through voting, this allows direct access to the people that you would need to talk to, letting your personal voice be heard.

This article seems biased towards lobbying good.

“Lobbying.” *OECD*, https://www.oecd.org/governance/ethics/lobbying/.

lobbying is a good and bad thing in democracy. It can be exploited by powerful groups to change the government for personal gain, against the interests of the people. There are countries outside of America also dealing with issues related to lobbying. There are steps that are outlined to help countries regulate lobbying. The 3 main objectives are “Build an effective and fair framework for openness and access, Enhance transparency, and Foster a culture of integrity.”

This is more of a government framework than a full article, but there are links to useful resources.

Peterson, Kyle, and Marc Pfitzer. “Lobbying for Good (SSIR).” *Stanford Social Innovation Review: Informing and Inspiring Leaders of Social Change*, https://ssir.org/articles/entry/lobbying\_for\_good.

in the early 2000s Mary Kay (pyramid scheme company) lobbied to have the violence against women act renewed. They have been lobbying for women’s rights since the 80s. there are many examples, however, of companies that boast one thing and through lobbying, directly contradict themselves. Ex. Toyota, creator of eco friendly cars, lobbied against stricter fuel economy standards. Each year companies spend more and more to achieve their goals. Both in USA and Europe, countries have companies spending billions to lobby the government.

Director, Sarah Nadeau Associate, et al. “How Campaign Contributions and Lobbying Can Lead to Inefficient Economic Policy.” *Center for American Progress*, 27 Mar. 2023, https://www.americanprogress.org/article/how-campaign-contributions-and-lobbying-can-lead-to-inefficient-economic-policy/.

there is an argument to be made that lobbying slows economic growth, despite companies making so much money off it. Companies are fighting for a bigger slice of the pie instead of trying to make the pie bigger. Public interest groups make up a pitiful 16% of lobbying expenditures, while businesses make up 72%. “Marvin Ammori, a fellow at the New America Foundation, calls a “corruption economy,” in which firms compete over political influence rather than product innovation.” Lobbying has a significant outcome on legislature. Rent-seeking is a phenomenon that is seriously hindering the economic growth of countries with lobbying.

"lobby, v." *OED Online*, Oxford University Press, March 2023, [www.oed.com/view/Entry/109496. Accessed 29 March 2023](http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/109496.%20Accessed%2029%20March%202023).

For definition of lobbying

“Turbotax, H&R Block Spend Big Bucks Lobbying for Us to Keep Doing Our Own Taxes.” *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 23 Mar. 2017, https://www.nbcnews.com/business/taxes/turbotax-h-r-block-spend-millions-lobbying-us-keep-doing-n736386.

Turbotax lobbying to keep taxes manual

“Prison Contracts: Profits & Politics.” *Tufts University Prison Divestment*, https://sites.tufts.edu/prisondivestment/prison-contracts/.

Prison lobbying effect on populus

Hananel Director, Sam, et al. “Fighting Special Interest Lobbyist Power over Public Policy.” *Center for American Progress*, 29 Mar. 2023, https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fighting-special-interest-lobbyist-power-public-policy/.

Describes 4 ways to fix lobbying, including stopping lobbyists from fundraising, stopping congress members from accepting money from the people who are under their committee, prevent politicians from becoming lobbyists later in their career, finally, increase the robustness of the definition for lobbying, so it is less ambiguous to what is legal

Useful source because Reputable and describes why what its proposing will work if implemented.

“Corruption Is Legal in America. This Is How We Make It Illegal.” *RepresentUs*, 21 Mar. 2022, https://represent.us/the-strategy-to-end-corruption/.

Outlines a simple strategy that has already worked in practice on how to implement these changes even though it is against the interests of the powerful and wealthy.

“Incarceration Rates by Country 2023.” *Incarceration Rates by Country 2023*, https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/incarceration-rates-by-country.

Shows incarceration rates in America compared to the other countries