



## LOBBYIST SECTION MANUAL

### MISSION

**It is a lobbyist's goal to influence and advocate for the passing or failing of legislation respectfully and powerfully.**

**A lobbyist relies on his or her ability to vocalize his or her position in an effort to inform and shape the opinion and vote of the Legislature.**

#### Overview

The Lobbyist Section offers one of the most unforgettable experiences available at State Conference, allowing its member delegates to participate in the legislative process from the unique perspective of a lobbyist.

Although they do not present on their own bills, lobbyists have the privilege of being able to speak in favor of or against bills presented during chamber sessions. The Section Leader may assign them specific bills that they should emphasize in their efforts.

Lobbyists should have considerable knowledge of their assigned bills and thorough understanding of the backgrounds, beliefs, and interests of other delegates. In addition to speaking on bills, lobbyists are also tasked with defending or opposing bills brought before the Governor's Cabinet. Lobbyists generally oppose bills favored by the Governor's Cabinet and take their own

positions on bills on which the Governor does not have a stance.

Lobbyists are veteran delegates who can contribute to legislative debates by helping legislators with their bills and representing their own and other delegates' interests during debate. Our goal for our Lobbyist section is for participants to engage professionally with one another in discussing legislation about which the Youth Governor is passionate and to persuade legislative delegates to feel similarly or differently. They will also develop debate and technical skills related to lobbying or working in the state government. Lobbyists are given much freedom throughout State Conference, including moving between legislative rooms in the hotel and the Capitol, and thus are expected to behave professionally and to respect all officers, delegates, and staff.

#### Regulations

1. Lobbyists may not wander, sit, or "hang out" in the Capitol. Lobbyists



- must be lobbying or in the Senate Press Room.
2. All lobbyists must arrive and return to the Senate Press Room on time.
  3. During committee and chamber sessions, lobbyists have the same speaking rights as all other delegates. They may speak on a bill, speak with authors or other delegates, etc.
  4. Lobbyists may bring a maximum of two students into the hall to speak with them. This meeting may not last longer than five minutes. If permission is not granted, lobbyists may not ask students to leave the chamber.
  5. Lobbyists must ask delegates if they are willing to leave the room to speak with lobbyists. Delegates may decline, and if they do so, lobbyists must respect that decision.
  6. Prohibited actions include:
    - a. **Bribery.** A lobbyist may not use unofficial bribery to make gains in passing or failing a bill. This includes but is not limited to payment, food or drink, and promises of removing delegates from chambers for free time. A lobbyist may tell a delegate that if the delegate votes for a certain bill, the lobbyist will help the delegate pass a separate bill.
    - b. **Disruption.** A lobbyist may not enter the chamber floor. Lobbyists will retrieve delegates quietly and respectfully. A lobbyist may view the chamber from the wings. Any form of disruption (e.g. written signs) will not be tolerated. When a lobbyist enters a committee, he or she should not speak until called upon by the chair.

## LOBBYING PRACTICE

**Below, you will find brief descriptions of traditionally “conservative” and “liberal” organizations that employ lobbyists to represent their interests in front of the Legislature.**

**Choose a few from each group and practice writing a brief overview of their interests. Then, talk to legislative delegates in your club about their bills. Write up 1–3 sentences regarding who each bill affects, what the bill entails/is trying to accomplish, where it will apply, why it is important to the state of TX, when the bill would take effect, and how the bill would be implemented. Then, write a short statement of 1–2 sentences explaining why the bill should fail or pass based on the viewpoint of each organization you selected.**



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## **Conservative Clients**

### **The National Rifle Association**

Formed in 1871, the NRA has been promoting freedom to own and use firearms for generations. The NRA defends firearm use for both recreational and defense purposes. It works to educate law enforcement, hunters, and gun enthusiasts about gun safety and proper use of firearms. The NRA is also a strong proponent of the protection of the Second Amendment right to bear arms. The NRA's primary goals include expanding firearm rights for all citizens and providing educational tools for gun owners to improve firearm safety.

### **The Catholic Church**

For centuries, the Catholic Church has remained influential throughout the world. It has 1.254 billion members worldwide and is currently led by Pope Francis. The core beliefs of the Church include the promotion of social justice and care for people who are poor, sick, or have disabilities. The Church is currently the largest non-governmental provider of education and medical services in the world, managing 26% of healthcare facilities worldwide including hospitals, orphanages, and pharmacies. The Catholic Church has established a clear opposition to controversial issues such as access to contraception methods and LGBT rights but supports an expansion of international aid. While the Church has had issues related to clergy's sexual abuse of minors in the past, Pope Francis has recently released statements that commit to preventing further cases of abuse.

### **The Family Research Council**

The Family Research Council was founded in 1983 in order to preserve marriage and family as the foundation of society. The FRC generally believes in religious liberty and the traditional image of marriage and family (heterosexual couple with children) that coincides with its Judeo-Christian worldview. Due to its religious values, the FRC opposes LGBT rights and contraceptive freedoms. The FRC actively promotes abstinence prior to marriage, opposing HPV vaccination as a requirement for school attendance and supporting abstinence-only sexual education in schools. The FRC usually involves itself in issues of sexual freedom, the legality of medical procedures, and the rights of the LGBT community.

### **The Heritage Foundation**

Since its founding in 1973, the Heritage Foundation research and educational institution has dedicated itself to creating conservative policy. The Heritage Foundation strongly believes in traditional American values like freedom of religion and equal economic opportunity. While the Heritage Foundation is involved in a variety of political affairs, the organization places great emphasis on foreign policy and economic opportunity. The Heritage Foundation holds that America should have a strong line of defense, reinforced borders, and citizens responsible for their own economic status.

### **Citizens United**

Citizens United is an organization committed to resisting the overextension of federal government and restoring the power of the people. The organization takes an active stance on the expansion of free enterprise, traditional family values, and national security. Citizens United was famously a party in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, a case with an outcome that allowed private companies to create political advertisements separate from political campaigns. Citizens United spreads its message



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through large scale advertising efforts and the release of documentaries promoting its conservative ideals.

## **The United States Oil and Gas Association**

Since 1917, the United States Oil and Gas Association has promoted the wellbeing of the oil and natural gas industries in the United States. The USOGA represents companies involved in the refining, transportation, production, marketing, and use of oil and natural gas products. The primary goal of the USOGA is to reduce government regulation and taxation of oil and natural gas, so the group supports legislation that allows for free expansion of the oil and gas industries. The USOGA generally backs legislative actions stimulating the domestic petroleum industry, usually advocating against alternative energy sources and use of foreign oil and gas products.

## **The Tobacco Industry**

The tobacco industry, as the name implies, is comprised of tobacco manufacturers in the United States. Leading manufacturers include Philip Morris International, RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company, and Lorillard Tobacco Co. Formerly known as the Tobacco Institute, the firm has been sued on multiple occasions in recent history for withholding health information about tobacco products. As one would expect, the tobacco industry supports the deregulation of tobacco-based products and the abolition of trade agreements in order to prevent foreign tobacco corporations from infiltrating American markets.

## **Citizens against Government Waste**

CAGW works toward reducing inefficiency and mismanagement in the federal government. CAGW generally supports measures like welfare reform that shrink the size of the federal government. CAGW advocates for trickle-down economic policies and tax cuts as well as the reduction of federal spending and loans. In addition, CAGW promotes transparency on the part of the federal government, especially regarding its financial actions.

## **The National Association of Manufacturers**

NAM is the largest manufacturing association in the U.S., representing Americans who contribute \$2.09 trillion to the domestic economy annually. NAM supports providing healthcare for workers and currently prioritizes the interests of coal and oil over alternative energy sources. NAM denies climate change as a legitimate issue and also opposes trade agreements that give foreign companies too much power in U.S. markets.

## **Liberal Clients**

### **The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence**

With the mission to “create a safer America for all of us that will lead to a dramatic reduction in gun deaths and injuries,” the Brady Campaign encourages policies that keep guns out of the wrong hands. Policies it promotes include background checks applicable to all gun sales, stopping the five percent of gun dealers that supply ninety percent of all guns used to commit crimes, and increasing awareness about the real dangers of guns in the home and schools.



## **Planned Parenthood**

As “America’s most trusted provider of reproductive health care,” Planned Parenthood provides vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide. Additionally, Planned Parenthood has promoted a commonsense approach to women’s health and wellbeing based on respect for each individual’s right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex, and family planning. News coverage about Planned Parenthood tends to focus on the organization’s abortion services. However, the organization reports that only three percent of all Planned Parenthood health services are abortion services.

## **American Atheists**

Since 1963, American Atheists has served as the premier organization fighting for the civil liberties of atheists and the total, absolute separation of government and religion. American Atheists emerged out of the Murray v. Curlett case of 1959 that challenged prayer recitation in U.S. public schools. Today, American Atheists is dedicated to advancing and protecting the civil rights of atheists, promoting separation of church and state, and providing non-biased information about atheism.

## **The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**

The vision of the NAACP is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race. This association uses democratic processes to remove all barriers related to racial discrimination and monitors implementation and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights.

## **Action on Smoking and Health**

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) seeks to end the worldwide disease, damage, and death associated with tobacco use. To accomplish these goals, ASH takes action to educate the public and decision makers about tobacco’s effects, monitor the tobacco industry, and work for sensible public policies at the local, state, national, and global levels.

## **The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations**

The AFL-CIO is seen as the umbrella federation for U.S. unions. It encompasses 56 unions representing 12.5 million working men and women. By working to ensure that all people who work reap the rewards of their work — decent paychecks and benefits, safe jobs, and respect and fair treatment — the AFL-CIO prioritizes making the voices of working people heard in all facets of governmental operations.

## **The American Civil Liberties Union**

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee all residents of this country. The ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach.

## **NORML**

The mission of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) is to move public opinion sufficiently to legalize the responsible use of marijuana by adults and to serve as an advocate for



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consumers to ensure they have access to high quality marijuana that is safe, convenient, and affordable. Since its founding in 1970, NORML has provided a voice in the public policy debate for those Americans who oppose marijuana prohibition and favor an end to the practice of arresting marijuana smokers.

## **The League of Conservation Voters**

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to translate environmental values into national, state, and local priorities. The LCV, in collaboration with other advocates for sound environmental laws and policies, holds elected officials accountable for their votes and actions related to the environment and supports pro-environment candidates.

## **Death with Dignity**

The Death with Dignity movement insists on the freedom of all qualified terminally ill Americans to make their own end-of-life decisions, including how they die. It provides information and education about Death with Dignity as an end-of-life option to patients, family members, legislators, and the interested public. It also mounts legal defenses of statutes and bills that allow physician-assisted suicide.