

# ALL AMERICAN LEAGUE OF LOBBYISTS

**Statement for the Record  
of the  
American League of Lobbyists  
Submitted to the  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
May 3, 2011**

The American League of Lobbyists has consistently opposed proposals that have a chilling effect on free speech. We believe that people have a right to voice their views to their elected officials by holding meetings or using any other form of communication without fear that they may become participants in something akin to a TV reality show.

This Administration has made a mantra out of the word "transparency." However, what it has produced is, at best, translucency and at worst a hypocritical attempt to claim the high road when the road taken is one of expediency. This pattern also appears in the President's claim that he will take no campaign funds from registered lobbyists when he takes funds from Democratic party committees who have no such restriction. It is also apparent when White House staff holds meetings with lobbyists in coffee shops across the street from their offices.

No American should have to fear that his or her entrance into the White House will be used by any group or media outlet for its own purposes. Registered lobbyists should not be prohibited from providing their expertise to White House staff. These restrictions on the right of Americans to express themselves are clearly harmful to the public interest. Ironically, the President has taken the next step down the slippery slope to support visitor logs for congressional offices, as well. We urge this Subcommittee to tread carefully lest its good intentions produce unanticipated results.

Howard Marlowe, President

202-285-1544

American League of Lobbyists  
P.O. Box 30005  
Alexandria, VA 22310