

ALL AMERICAN LEAGUE OF LOBBYISTS

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**Statement of Howard Marlowe, President of the American League of Lobbyists, in Response to the
President's appointment of celebrities to official posts.**

Washington, D.C. —Yesterday, after releasing guidance that codifies a policy restricting Lobbyists from working on Federal Boards and Commissions, the Office of Management and Budget claimed that there is a need to “close the revolving door between the federal government and special interests.” A few minutes later the President appointed the entertainer Shakira, to a Commission tasked to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary of Education on education issues related to Hispanics and address academic excellence and opportunities for the Hispanic community. This appointment is insulting to the men and women who seek to serve their country through public servitude but can't because they choose to follow the letter of the law by registering as a lobbyist.

Lobbyists are experts in the public policy arena. In a time of hardship, where jobs are scarce the President would rather appoint celebrities like Jon Bon Jovi to the White House Council for Community Solutions or Clay Aiken to the Presidential Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities than men and women with knowledge of what makes positive public policy and who understand what this country needs to keep industry moving forward. The President is sending a message to employers that it's better to hire a friend, like a supporter who helped on his campaign, than qualified candidates with solid resumes.

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Contact:
Howard Marlowe
President, ALL
Phone: 202-775-1796
E-Mail: President@alldc.org