

How to Save Free Speech

1.

Call Congress now toll free,
1-877-851-6437 or 1-866-340-9281.
Toll, 1-202-225-3121. Tell them: “Please
remove from the lobby reform bill any
restrictions upon grassroots lobbyist
organizations. They have no history of
corruption and should be left alone.”

2.

Copy this flyer. Send it to your members of
Congress, plus their highly influential legislative
aides. The list is available at
www.truthtellers.org. Also, share it with your
church and community. Send it to broadcasters,
newspapers and members of state legislatures.
Post on the internet.

3.

Visit www.truthtellers.org learn about the
threat of hate laws. At our site, you’ll find the
text of the federal hate bill with detailed analysis,
and learn how to prevent its passage.

4.

Watch NPN’s gripping 80-minute video on
Google, *Hate Laws: Making Criminals of
Christians*. Buy and share it on DVD or VHS
available at truthtellers.org.

TALK SHOW HOSTS Interview Rev. Ted Pike!
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LOBBY REFORM BILL

Attack on Grassroots Freedom

by Rev. Ted Pike



Few would deny that lobbying

abuses exist, especially in the federal government and Congress. The lobby reform bill, initiated by Sen. McCain and now before Congress, legitimately attempts to prevent such abuses among high-rolling lobbyists and members of our government.

However, Section 220 of S.1, *The Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007*, places onerous restrictions upon grassroots lobbyist organizations. Sec. 220 views their organizations with suspicion, as if they would abuse their privileges if they were not regulated. The truth is, America does not have a problem with too much public concern and activism at the grassroots level. Just the opposite. Civic apathy, not activism, is the overwhelming threat to freedom in America today.

Dr. Dobson Warns Us

Dr. James Dobson last year warned there exists a hidden agenda within the

lobby reform bill: “Senator McCain, who authorized the Lobby Reform Bill did not include language that put constraints on grassroots activists, but Senators Joe Lieberman and Carl Levin added an amendment to do just that.” (Focus on the Family press release, “Lobby Reform Bill Would Restrict Grassroots Activism,” March 6, 2006)

An Expert Speaks Out

Keri Houston, spokesperson for the Lobby Sense Coalition, added: “Specific provisions of these bills would diminish the citizen voice and significantly reduce the ability of grassroots organizations to continue to express and promote the people’s will... The legislation defines grassroots lobbying as any attempt to influence the public... Legions of citizen organizations, small businesses, and even individuals would become subject to onerous registration and reporting requirements, simply because they were trying to motivate the public to support a position or a point of view.” (“Congress Set to Muzzle the Citizen Activist,” Keri Houston, The Lobby Sense Coalition, February 28, 2006)

Crushing the Grassroots

Sec. 220 defines a “grassroots lobbying firm” as one which spends at least \$25,000 per quarter to influence federal policy. Sec. 220 requires such “firms” to register with the government after receiving a grassroots lobbying contract and to file quarterly reports on the details of financial transactions necessary to pursue such lobbying. Further, any paid grassroots lobbyist organization or person who devotes 20% or more of their time to a specific lobbying issue must file a quarterly report regarding funds spent on that issue. If other issues are similarly emphasized, separate reports must be filed on each one. Clearly, such burdensome paperwork would overwhelm low-budget, largely volunteer organizations with bookkeeping obligations, virtually silencing them. Penalty for failure to report: \$100,000

Our message to Congress concerning Levin and Lieberman’s onerous reporting requirements on grassroots lobbyists should be clear:

Cut out Section 220 from S.1! Do the same for Pelosi’s House version!