

The Legislative Process and Lobby Influence

* I believe the legislative process creates a filtered system of checks and balances that a bill must surmount before becoming a law. The length of the process (re: filtering) creates effective laws for the United States because the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the President (with the veto power exception) must approve the bill for it to become a law. This filtering ensures that special interests are not passing the law because Congress people, elected by their state constituents and representing their interests, have input in debate and ultimately vote on whether to move the bill to the President. However, I do not believe that the process is necessarily effective due to the influence of of lobbyists. There are fifteen lobbyists for every one person on Capitol Hill. They buy influence in legislation and ensure that their interests are represented.

* There are thousands of bills that are drafted each year. I wonder how many of them would be very beneficial to the American people, yet are buried (or otherwise ignored) because there is no lobby money pushing it to the attention of legislators. I believe that is where lobbying money comes into play- getting a bill 'looked at' so it passes the first review (very few bills survive the initial review in committee).