

From: [REDACTED]

To: USOGE

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Part 2635

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2011 2:58:29 AM

This proposed amendment is long overdue. Far from adding to the "dumbing-down of government" it will encourage educating our legislators on the merits of proposed actions rather than buying their approval with quid pro quo, emphasis on the 'quid'. What a radical idea!

With a base salary of \$174,000 for 123 days in session compared to the median income in the USA of \$31,111 for 255 work days per year (560% over the median) the blatant purchasing of favors with lifestyle gifts of tickets, all expenses paid retreats, dinners, lunches, parties, etc., only serves to further distance legislators from their constituents.

We expect our legislators to work for us, it appears the only way to get that is to end the undue influence of contributions of any kind. There is strong support for ethics and lobbying reform from everyone except the lobbyists and the beneficiaries of lobbyists largess. Trade Shows are pure promotional events, the educational opportunities are far from disinterested or unbiased, Hospitality in every form is expected and received. Ban them.

Many of us are old enough to remember the current Speaker of the House handing out checks from the tobacco industry on the House floor. It is still happening quietly behind closed doors on both sides of the aisle.

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