

# Take the Money and Run: Business Influence in the Legislative Process.

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# Take the Money and Run: Business Influence in the Legislative Process

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**Division:** Social Sciences

**Dept/Program:** Political Science

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## Abstract

This political science honors thesis investigates corporate influence in the legislative process, with an emphasis on financial services legislation. The

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evidenced by the Gramm-Leach Bliley Act and Dodd-Frank Act. How do corporate interests influence the lawmaking process in absolute terms? How do their adversaries (consumer advocates, labor, etc.)? In assessing the influence of business groups, this thesis seeks to identify their process in relation to legislators; in identifying their relative power and adversary groups. The hypothesis of this thesis is that corporations have a but not hegemonic influence in the legislative process and that they are behind the shape of Gramm-Leach-Bliley and, to a lesser extent, Dodd-Frank.

The first section of this thesis reviews relevant social science literature on the influence of interest groups in governance. The next section analyzes the methods through which interest groups influence government policy-making through lobbying. This section includes information regarding the growth of interest groups over time and the strong advantage business representatives have over consumer groups, and consumer advocates. The third portion includes theoretical studies illustrating the impact of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and Dodd-Frank financial regulatory reforms. These studies illustrate the strong power of business interest groups while also demonstrating the continuing ability of consumer advocates to influence policy.

## Discipline(s)

American Politics

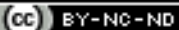
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