



A. What do these graphs show us Special Interest Groups are doing?

B. Why do you think they are doing this?

C. How do you feel about Special Interest Groups doing this?

Many Special Interest Groups use these funds to hire professional Lobbyists who have connections in Government and are experts in the Legislative Process to enhance their chances of influencing what becomes law. (Example: A Teacher's Union use funds to hire a professional Lobbyist so the Lobbyist's connections and knowledge can help a bill lengthening the school day to get support in the Assembly and Senate and become law.)

Define: Lobbyist -

*Directions: Look at the "Reasons to Hire a Lobbyist" reading handout and summarize in a sentence below the reasons Special Interest Groups like the Teacher's Union might use their funds to hire a professional Lobbyist.*

**1. Experience -**

**2. Strategy -**

**3. Personal Contacts -**

**4. Speed -**

Thought/Discussion Question: Does the ability (money) of Special Interest Groups to hire a professional Lobbyists make the Legislative Process unfair? (Yes or No - Explain Your Answer)

Many opponents of Lobbying would like to see Professional Lobbying banned, but professional Lobbying protected by the First Amendment. The good news is lobbying by citizens is also protected by the First Amendment.

*Directions: Look at the text of the First Amendment below and fill in the blanks of 5 Rights given.*

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

1. Freedom of Religion

**2. Freedom of** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Freedom of the Press

**4. Right to** \_\_\_\_\_ (gather in groups, protest, boycott, etc.)

**5. Right to** \_\_\_\_\_ (contact the Government - call, write, visit, Email, petition - to tell them what you support and do not support).

**\*\* BOLDED RIGHTS ABOVE PROTECT YOUR ABILITY AS A CITIZEN TO LOBBY THE GOVERNMENT FOR CHANGE!**

What actions do you see above next to the bolded rights that you could use to Lobby as a citizen?