

The ethical transgressions often associated with the relationship between elected officials and lobbyists seem to be primarily a consequence of the association of political contributions or payments of fees for alleged services to elected officials in exchange for favorable treatment by those elected officials in performing their official duties. Why isn't it possible to simply preclude any individual or corporation who/which donates to a political party, campaign or PAC or who does business with an elected official in which the elected official is paid a salary or fee, from doing business with the State or its municipalities or public authorities. Also, individuals who make such contributions could be prohibited from taking salaried positions with the State or its municipalities or public authorities. This would eliminate the most egregious situations which have the potential to facilitate conflicts of interest by elected officials.

This would not interfere with anyone's First Amendment rights. Any individual or corporation could still donate – they simply could not do so with any expectation of receiving a job or a contract for their political support.

Vito Grasso