



www.represent.us

ACTION HANDBOOK



TAKE ACTION!

WE'RE ASKING YOU TO HELP STOP POLITICAL CORRUPTION. TAKE THE FIRST CRUCIAL STEP AND GET YOUR COMMUNITY INVOLVED!



Action Steps

- 1** Pick a spot with a lot of foot traffic, and talk to the people going in and out. Use the script to **ask them to add their name** as a supporter in the effort to end corruption in American politics. Share your personal story and tell them about our goal of getting a million citizens demanding change.
- 2** **Collect 20 or more signatures** using the paper petition in this packet or by visiting the Represent.us website.
- 3** Follow the instructions at the bottom of each paper petition page to send us your list of co-sponsors.



You don't need a fancy set-up to get signatures, just the things below.

Goal

Our goal is to have 1 million Americans sign. If you can get at least 20 new supporters, we can reach that goal! We can only accomplish that with your help.

If all of us dedicate an hour of our time, together we can enlist the army of reformers needed to fix our broken system. We can do it!

If the local media interviews you, let us know!

**If you have any questions call us at
413-585-8100 ext. 29**

What to Bring with You

- ☐ This "Action Handbook."
- ☐ 2 or 3 pens.
- ☐ A clipboard, folder or something hard and portable as a writing surface.
- ☐ Wear a Represent.Us sticker or pin.
- ☐ A table is useful, though not required.

PETITION PITCH

BELOW IS A WELL-TESTED PITCH TO DESCRIBE REPRESENT.US AND OUR MISSION.
PRACTICE THIS SCRIPT BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT TO SPEAK WITH THE PUBLIC.



Quick Hooks

“Hi, want to get big money out of politics?”

“Hi! Can I tell you about our campaign to stop money from corrupting our elections and politics?”

“Hi, do you agree that big money is corrupting American politics?”

“Hi, would you like to help stop government corruption?”

Full Pitch



I’m with Represent.Us. We’re a national, non-partisan campaign to pass anti-corruption laws in cities and states across the country so we can stop lobbyists and special interests from bribing politicians who are supposed to be representing us. Right now, we’re working to get a million people to sign on in support. Will you add your name so we can let your lawmakers know this is something you want them to pass?



Seal the Deal



If you’d like to volunteer or be get more involved, just check off the boxes next to your name. We’ll connect you with other volunteers in your area. Thank you.



Responses to Common Questions

WHAT'S IN THE LAW?

Show AACA card, if you have one.

“It does three main things: Stops legalized bribery so politicians can’t take campaign money from the industries they’re supposed to be regulating; Ends secret money by requiring political committees to disclose where their campaign cash is coming from; And empowers voters like us with a tax rebate that we can use to contribute to the candidates of our choice.”

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?

Show 5-step card, if you have one.

“Here’s the plan:

- 1** We already have a comprehensive, bi-partisan law written by one conservative and one liberal.
- 2** Right now we’re building power among people of all political stripes, by organizing in our communities to collect signatures and endorsements and utilize the media.
- 3** We’re building this power to win incremental victories at the city and state level through ballot initiatives and local laws.
- 4** And because the only thing that truly motivates politicians is the fear of losing their office, these initial victories will help force politicians to act, since they’ll see the movement building.
- 5** Ultimately we’ll win by passing anti-corruption laws in all 50 states and eventually at the federal level.”

But again, right now we’re at Step 2: creating real political power by gaining the support of millions of Americans and organizing in our own cities and towns. Will you add your name in support of our campaign?

I SUPPORT ~~THE~~ AMERICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

I want to join Represent.Us, the campaign behind the American Anti-Corruption Act –
a bold new law that stops political bribery, ends secret money, and empowers everyday voters.

PRINT NAME		CONTACT ME ABOUT	
SIGN NAME	ZIP	Organize activists	Marketing / Media
EMAIL	PHONE	Phone banking	Public speaking
		Petitioning	Seek endorsements
		Event planning	Meet Congressperson

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Please send all co-sponsor information to United Republic. Use one of these options and keep a copy for yourself.

**SCAN THE PAGE
AND EMAIL IT TO:**
info@unitedrepublic.org

OR

FAX TO:
(413) 585-8110

OR

MAIL A HARD COPY TO:
United Republic
PO Box 60008
Florence, MA 01062



ORGANIZER

EMAIL



THE AMERICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

Summary of Provisions

STOP THE BRIBERY

Stop Politicians from Taking Bribes

Prohibit members of Congress from soliciting or receiving contributions from the interests they regulate. Require members to recuse themselves from decisions affecting their donors.

Ban Job Offers as Bribes

Close the “revolving door” where elected representatives and senior staff sell off their legislative power for high-paying jobs. Stop them from negotiating jobs while in office and, once they leave, bar them from all lobbying activity for 5 years.

Cut Kick-Backs

Strengthen the ban on political contributions from government contractors to include contractor lobbyists and PACs.

Limit Lobbyist Donations

Limit the amount that lobbyists and their clients can contribute to federal politics by 80%, to \$500 a year, and limit lobbyist fundraising for federal candidates, political parties, and political committees.

PEOPLE OVER PACS

End Super-PAC Exceptions

Make Super PACs abide by the same contribution limits as any other political organization.

Restrict “Coordination” with Super PACs

Toughen rules regarding Super PACs’ coordination with political campaigns and parties. We may not be able to abolish all Super PACs, but we can eliminate single-candidate Super PACs with close ties to campaigns.

Empower All Voters with a Tax Rebate

Build up the influence voters by creating a biennial \$100 Tax Rebate they can use to make qualified contributions to federal candidates, political parties, and political committees. Candidates and political groups will only be eligible for these funds if they agree to a set of contribution limits: they will only accept money from small donors (giving \$500 or less a year), other groups abiding by the limits, and the Tax Rebates themselves.

NO SECRET MONEY

Call Lobbyists Lobbyists

Significantly expand the definition of, and register all lobbyists to prevent anyone trying to influence our lawmakers from skirting the rules.

Full Disclosure

Mandate full transparency of all political money. Require any organization that spends \$10,000 or more on advertisements to elect or defeat federal candidates to file a disclosure report with the Federal Election Commission within 24 hours of airing the advertisement. Require federal candidates to disclose the names of individuals who “bundle” contributions for the Member or candidate, regardless of whether they are registered lobbyists.

Separate Fundraising from Lawmaking

Prevent Congress-members from fundraising during Congressional working hours, and require disclosure of any fundraising activities while Congress is in session.

ENFORCE THE RULES

Find and Punish Corruption

The Act will strengthen the Federal Election Commission’s independence and strengthen the House and Senate ethics enforcement processes. The Act also will provide federal prosecutors additional tools necessary to combat corruption, and prohibit lobbyists who fail to properly register and disclose their activities from engaging in federal lobbying activities for a period of two years.

Read the Full Act:
AntiCorruptionAct.org



FACT SHEET

THE PROBLEM OF MONEY IN POLITICS AFFECTS YOU AND THE ISSUES YOU CARE ABOUT MOST

More than \$7 billion were spent in the 2012 federal elections. Members of Congress use one-third to two-thirds of their time fundraising. And research shows they are four times more likely to meet with someone if they think he or she is a political donor.



The Economy

- There were 2,432 lobbyists representing the finance, insurance and real-estate industries in 2013—a quarter of all lobbyists. *Source: Opensecrets*
- The financial industry spent \$1.2 billion on lobbying and campaign contributions during the 2012 elections. *Opensecrets*
- Since 1998, the financial industry has spent 8.6 billion dollars influencing government, through lobbying and election donations. Every year, banks receive \$780 billion in subsidies. *Washingtonsblog*
- 73 former members of Congress lobbied on behalf of the financial sector in 2010. *Opensecrets*

Education

- During the 2012 election cycle, the education industry contributed nearly \$68 million dollars to federal candidates. *OpenSecrets*
- Of that \$68 million, around 32 percent of it went to the reelection campaign of Barack Obama. *OpenSecrets*
- In 2013, the for-profit college industry spent \$12 million lobbying and donating to political campaigns. *OpenSecrets*
- For-profit colleges also received \$521 million from military and veterans' educational programs, through the federal government. *Bloomberg*

The Environment

- The oil and gas industry spent \$141 million on lobbying in 2012, while the alternative energy industry spent one sixth that amount: \$24 million. *Opensecrets*
- Amount the energy industry spent to defeat the 2010 American Clean Energy and Security Act: \$543 million. *OpenSecrets*
- Yearly federal subsidies to the oil and natural gas industries: \$7 billion. *American Progress*

National Security

- Boeing spent \$357,000 lobbying the state legislature in Washington. It then received an \$8.7 billion tax break, the largest state tax break in U.S. history. *Followthemoney*
- Drone manufacturers have given Congress \$2.3 million dollars, which in 2013, allowed a 10,000% increase in the number of domestic drones.

Healthcare

- The healthcare industry has 2,991 active lobbyists, 52% of whom are former Congress-members or Congressional staffers. *Opensecrets*
- In 2012, the industry lobbied Congress with \$491 million and gave members donations of \$263 million.
- Lobbying totals for the health industry have tripled since 1998 while healthcare cost have increased by 250%.