



## **Pushing for Full Disclosure**

**Influence**

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*Paul Miller, president of the American League of Lobbyists, which represents more than 700 lobbyists, spoke to Influence's Anna Palmer about the league's five newly adopted disclosure principles, which address the proposed congressional lobbying reform legislation and include full online disclosure of all lobbying reports and a lobbying code of ethics.*

**Q: Why did [the association] come up with the five guiding principles?**

**A:** The larger picture is the Jack Abramoff situation. Once that hit the news, everybody was saying lobbying is corrupt. . . . We created some principles that we think are fair, changes that can be immediate. [We] don't necessarily need legislation to make changes.

**Q: What are some of the problems with the current system?**

**A:** We're not prepared to say there is a problem. If Congress thinks there is a problem, the first step should be to review the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

**Q: Does [the association] think the LDA filings are enforced?**

**A:** No, that's part of the problem. The Meehan/Feingold [campaign reform] bills say we need to stiffen penalties. . . . [If Congress] is not currently enforcing the rules and regulations, how can you say lobbyists are going to be scared off by \$100,000 penalties?

**Q: One of the loopholes that [the association] points out is that churches, state/ local grass roots, and public relations firms should have to file disclosure forms. Do you think that would be hard to enforce?**

**A:** It shouldn't be. [The] whole question around this is that everybody wants to find out where the money is going, who's lobbying for what. . . . The term lobbying has to be expanded to include everybody working on any lobbying activity.