

LOBBY WATCH

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The Politician, Lobby and Corruption Triad

Most major Texas papers have editorialized against pending bill [SB 10](#) to replace the Travis County Public Integrity Unit with a Rube-Goldberg system designed to keep corrupt politicians out of jail.

This cynical legislation from Houston Sen. Joan Huffman has rightfully become known as the “politicians’ protection plan.” But that is not all. Intrepid *San Antonio Express-News* reporters recently [pointed out](#) that Huffman’s bill also would hamstring corruption cases against *lobbyists*, too.

Apart from themselves, lawmakers also are coddling the lobbyists who bankroll their campaigns, laugh at their jokes, pay their food-and-drink bills and draft their legislative bills (Huffman’s top lobby contributor has done some [ghostwriting](#) for her). Indeed, the relationship between lawmakers and lobbyists often is that of the pollywog to the frog. Many lawmakers who will vote on SB 10 will metamorphosize into future lobbyists.

Senator Huffman has collected more than \$200,000 from lobby interests since she first ran for the senate in 2008 (four percent of her total haul). Laboring long hours in the shadows, these lobbyists deserve our recognition—if not impunity from prosecutions.

Joan Huffman’s Top Lobby Contributors

Amount	Contributor (2008 through 2014)	City
\$29,212	Locke Lord LLP	Houston
\$17,500	Allen Boone Humphries Robinson	Houston
\$17,000	Blackridge Consulting	Austin
\$15,500	HillCo PAC	Austin
\$11,500	Linebarger Goggan Blair...	Austin
\$7,500	Rob’t/Gordon Johnson (Johnson & Johnson)	Austin
\$7,000	Andrews Kurth	Houston
\$7,000	Baker Botts Amicus Fund	Houston
\$6,000	TX Lobby Group	Austin
\$5,500	Gardere Wynne Sewell	Dallas
\$5,500	Bill & Catherine Miller (HillCo Partners)	Austin
\$5,500	TX Our TX PAC (Buster Brown)	Austin
\$5,000	K&L Gates	Dallas
\$4,750	Winstead PAC	Dallas
\$4,000	Graydon Group	Austin
\$4,000	R Bruce LaBoon (Locke Lord)	Austin
\$4,000	Vinson & Elkins	Houston
\$3,500	Hance Scarborough’s HS Law PAC	Austin
\$3,000	Erben & Yarbrough	Austin
\$2,500	Fulbright & Jaworski	Houston
\$2,500	Glenna Hodge (Linebarger Goggan)	Burnet
\$2,500	Lee A Woods (Lee Woods & Associates)	Houston
\$2,000	Akin Gump Strauss Hauer...	Austin
\$2,000	Coats Rose	Houston
\$2,000	Focused Advocacy	Austin
\$2,000	Ron Lewis & Associates	Austin
\$2,000	Walter Fisher & Associates	Austin
\$2,500	P John Kuhl Jr (Sanford & Kuhl)	Houston
\$1,000	Michael & Stacy Toomey (TX Lobby Group)	Austin
\$1,000	Randy DeLay (Public Private Strategies)	Houston
\$1,000	Jack M Fields (21st Century Group)	Kingwood
\$1,000	Lloyd Gosselink	Austin
\$1,000	Greenberg Traurig	Miami
\$1,000	Jay Howard (HillCo Partners)	Austin
\$1,000	William ‘Billy’ Phenix (TX Capitol Group)	Austin
\$1,000	Santos Alliances	Austin
\$1,000	Stan Schlueter Consulting	Austin