**Press Release**

**Over 500 Businesses to Lobby State Lawmakers**

**January 31, 2011**

Less than one month after the start of the 2011 legislative session, data from the Connecticut Office of State Ethics (OSE) shows that 539 businesses have registered with the agency as “client lobbyists.” These entities are businesses and organizations that spend or enter into agreements to spend over $2,000 a year on lobbying.

By the January 15 registration deadline, 581 additional lobbyists had registered as receiving or agreeing to receive $2,000 for conducting lobbying activities. This number encompasses in-house lobbyists of the organizations noted above, lobbying firms, and individual communicator lobbyists.

Real-time registration data and other statistics are available to the public on the OSE’s website, [www.ct.gov/ethics](http://www.ct.gov/ethics), at the [Lobbyist Filing System link](https://www.oseapps.ct.gov/NewLobbyist/security/loginhome.aspx). The online filing system, introduced in 2009, enables the OSE as well as any interested member of the public to search and sort through the information filed. This results in increased transparency regarding who is spending money on lobbying, what issues are being targeted, and how the money is being spent.

In 2010, nearly $39 million was spent on lobbying, 85% of which was spent on legislative lobbying activities.

So far in 2011, the top issues noted on the lobbyist registrations are “Health and Hospitals,” tied with “Government” (including taxation, appropriations, and budget). The top 10 issues this year also include human services, business, education, insurance, environment, utilities, and economic development.

“Lobbying is an integral part of our democratic process,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson. “The Code of Ethics for Lobbyists serves to limit certain types of spending and seeks to provide the public with information about the role of money in the political process.”

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