

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 188

Expressing the sense of the Senate that lobbyists should not be granted special access privileges to the Capitol and congressional offices that are not available to other American citizens.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 7, 2001

Mr. CORZINE (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that lobbyists should not be granted special access privileges to the Capitol and congressional offices that are not available to other American citizens.

Whereas a fundamental principle of American democracy is that all citizens are created equal and all should have access to Government leaders;

Whereas there is a perception among many Americans that special interest groups and lobbyists for special interest groups have access to decision makers that ordinary citizens do not have;

Whereas this perception contributes to a belief that middle-class citizens, and those of more modest means, are treated unfairly in the political process;

Whereas it is important that Americans have confidence that Congress will treat all citizens equitably, regardless of whether they are represented by professional lobbyists;

Whereas recent terrorist events have increased the need for security precautions at the Capitol and surrounding congressional office buildings;

Whereas tightened security measures may make it more difficult for members of the public and lobbyists to gain access to the Capitol complex;

Whereas some lobbyists are now seeking to gain special privileges for access to the Capitol complex that would not be available to other members of the general public who have official business before Congress;

Whereas giving lobbyists privileged access to congressional offices that is not available to the general public who have official business before Congress would further contribute to the perception that ordinary citizens are treated unfairly in the legislative process; and

Whereas granting privileged access for lobbyists is likely to increase public cynicism about Congress and the political process and heighten concerns about the excessive influence of special interests and lobbyists: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that in
- 2 establishing rules governing access to the Capitol or con-
- 3 gressional offices for those who have official business be-
- 4 fore Congress, lobbyists should not be granted special

1 privileges that are not available to other American citi-
2 zens.

