



## ANTI-LOBBYING ACT

Federal agencies are barred from using appropriated funds to urge that members of the public contact Congress or state legislatures to support or oppose pending legislation or appropriations bills

### **Dos and Don'ts for the Anti-Lobbying Act**

- The anti-lobbying act prohibits using appropriated funds (including your salaries) to ask people to lobby Congress or other Governments on behalf of a bill.
- Commerce officials sometimes get questions such as: "What do you want us to do" and "who in Congress is still on the fence?"
- In answering those questions you can:
  - tell them to work generally on behalf of the bill,
  - tell people to provide us input on their views on the bill,
  - say "It is important that if you have views you express them," or
  - talk about what the President and this Administration is doing.
- You cannot:
  - tell others to talk to their Congressperson or
  - tell others to organize people to lobby Congress.
- If you are asked "Should I talk to my Congressperson?" you should:
  - respond by saying "I am here to talk about the impact of the President's proposal." or
  - if forced, may say: "I am prohibited by law from answering that question."
- In general, steer clear of asking for help getting a bill approved by Congress.