

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2177

To prohibit the payment of individuals to reserve a place in line for a seat for a lobbyist at a congressional committee hearing or business meeting.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2007

Mrs. MCCASKILL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To prohibit the payment of individuals to reserve a place in line for a seat for a lobbyist at a congressional committee hearing or business meeting.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Get in Line Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON THE PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS**  
2 **TO RESERVE A PLACE IN LINE FOR A LOB-**  
3 **BYIST FOR A SEAT AT A CONGRESSIONAL**  
4 **COMMITTEE HEARING OR BUSINESS MEET-**  
5 **ING.**

6 (a) PROHIBITION.—The Lobbying Disclosure Act of  
7 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by adding at  
8 the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 27. PROHIBITION ON THE PAYMENT OF INDIVIDUALS**  
10 **TO RESERVE A PLACE IN LINE FOR A LOB-**  
11 **BYIST FOR A SEAT AT A CONGRESSIONAL**  
12 **COMMITTEE HEARING OR BUSINESS MEET-**  
13 **ING.**

14 “(a) PROHIBITION.—Any person described in sub-  
15 section (b) shall not make a payment to an individual to  
16 reserve a place in line for a seat for that person at a con-  
17 gressional committee hearing or business meeting.

18 “(b) PERSONS SUBJECT TO PROHIBITION.—The per-  
19 sons subject to the prohibition under subsection (a) are  
20 any lobbyist that is registered or is required to register  
21 under section 4(a)(1), any organization that retains or em-  
22 ploys 1 or more lobbyists and is registered or is required  
23 to register under section 4(a)(2), and any employee listed  
24 or required to be listed as a lobbyist by a registrant under  
25 section 4(b)(6) or 5(b)(2)(C).”.

1 (b) CERTIFICATION.—Section 5(d)(1)(G) of the Lob-  
2 bying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1604(d)(1)(G))  
3 is amended—

4 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” after the  
5 semicolon;

6 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and in-  
7 serting “; and”; and

8 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

9 “(iii) has read and is familiar with  
10 section 27, relating to paying individuals to  
11 reserve seats at congressional committee  
12 hearings or business meetings, and has not  
13 violated that section.”.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
15 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
16 of this Act.

17 **SEC. 3. COMMITTEE HEARING AVAILABILITY.**

18 A committee of the Senate that is unable to accom-  
19 modate all persons wishing to sit in the hearing room for  
20 a committee hearing or business meeting shall—

21 (1) make all reasonable accommodations for  
22 such overflow, including opening up an overflow  
23 room with a video monitor showing the hearing or  
24 meeting if possible; and

- 1 (2) stream the hearing or meeting on the com-
- 2 mittee website to the extent practicable.

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