

**INTEREST GROUP:** Group of individuals with a common interest who attempt to influence government policy

### **Importance of Interest Groups**

- Most Americans are either part of or benefit from interest group activity
- Interest groups are a longtime part of American politics
- Interest groups are a vital – yet biased – part of the political process
- Most Americans do not recognize that they are part of the interest group system

### **Prevailing attitude about interest groups:**

- They are a corrupting influence on American politics
- Interest groups buy elections and politicians

Tools of interest groups:

- Expertise
- Persuasion

Inside vs. outside strategy

- Publicity
- Money

## Types of Interest Groups:

Economic/business

Professional

Public

Social and Environmental

Single Issue