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BUSBY RELEASES CLEAN OFFICE PROPOSAL

Would Create Toughest Standards for Lobbyist Access of Any Congressional Office

Encinitas – Today Congressional Candidate Francine Busby released her CLEAN Office Proposal, a plan detailing how her office will interact with lobbyists. If elected, Busby's office would have the toughest standards for interaction with lobbyists of any of the 535 congressional offices in Washington.

"This Congress has consistently shown a willingness to put the needs of high-powered DC lobbyists above the needs of average taxpayers and that has to change. The current lax laws have allowed a system where lobbyists write legislation and taxpayer dollars are given away in backroom, secret meetings," said Busby.

Busby's CLEAN Office proposal would eliminate secret meetings with lobbyists, limit conflicts of interest as former House staff members and former members of Congress become lobbyists, ban lobbyist funded travel, and ban any gifts from lobbyists. Busby has pledged that any member of her staff who willfully violated these rules would no longer serve on her staff. A full explanation of the CLEAN Office Proposal is attached.

"The work of the 50th Congressional District office is the work of taxpayers and voters not DC lobbyists and the powerful special interests they represent. I am happy to meet with an advocate for any cause but believe that members of Congress should judge an issue based on its merits not on their personal connection to the advocate," said Busby

News reports have indicated that the recent guilty plea of Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff may involve his testimony against up to 20 members of Congress and their staff. According to the Center for Public Integrity, during 2003 federal lobbyists spent \$2.4 billion and the number has only risen since.

Busby added that, "This Congress has passed a Medicare bill for the big drug lobbyist instead of seniors, an energy bill for the big oil lobbyists instead of consumers, and appropriations earmarks for corporate lobbyists instead of deficit reduction. We have to change the corrupt system that allowed Duke Cunningham and Jack Abramoff to flourish."

Attachments: "Francine's CLEAN Office Proposal"



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FRANCINE'S CLEAN OFFICE PROPOSAL

Francine Busby is committed to holding her official House office to the highest standards of ethical conduct. With that in mind, she will go above and beyond the current lax laws that allow lobbyists to control lawmaking in Washington and demand that her office lives up to a higher standard. The work of the 50th District office is the work of the people not the work of powerful DC lobbyists. Francine is happy to meet with advocates for any cause but believes that members of Congress should judge an issue based on its merits instead of a member's personal connection with the advocate.

NO SECRET LOBBYIST MEETINGS: My office will report any meeting any member of my staff or I have with a registered lobbyist on my website once a week.

NO HELPING MEMBERS CASH IN: I will not allow any member of Congress with whom I have served who becomes a federal registered lobbyist lobby me or my office on any issue.

NO HELPING LOBBYISTS CASH IN: I will not allow any former member of my staff who has become a registered federal lobbyist lobby my staff or me on any issue.

NO LOBBYIST SPONSORED TRAVEL: As part of my CLEAN House Act, I called for an end to all privately funded congressional travel and therefore will never take a trip arranged or paid for by a lobbyist and will prohibit my staff from such travel as well.

NO LOBBYIST GIFTS: I will not accept or allow my staff to accept any gifts from any registered federal lobbyist as is proposed in Representative George Miller's legislation. [H.R. 3177, <http://thomas.loc.gov>]

COMPLIANCE: Any member of my staff who willfully violates any of these rules will no longer serve on my staff.