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Busby Calls House Democrats Ethics Proposal Another ‘Band-Aid’

Encinitas, Ca – Democratic Congressional Candidate Francine Busby today applauded the Democratic leadership in Congress for acknowledging the need to change the culture of corruption in Washington, but criticized their proposal as “another band-aid when a tourniquet is needed.” The plan released by the Democratic leadership ends gifts from lobbyists, slows the revolving door for House staff and representatives becoming lobbyists, increases lobbying disclosure, and increases transparency on government contracts. Yesterday Busby criticized the Republican leadership’s proposal as well.

“These proposals are well-intentioned but will not change the way Washington works. Proposals written by establishment politicians will inevitably serve the establishment not the voters they are intending to protect. Instead of restoring honesty and integrity to Washington these proposals are just band-aides placed over the problem,” said Busby.

“I have promised the toughest anti-lobbyist practices of anyone in Congress: no gifts, no trips, no secret meetings, no outside financial relationships, and no exceptions. None of the other candidates running to replace Duke Cunningham have made that promise.”

Busby pointed out that the dueling proposals by the national parties are significant for what they both continue to allow: secret meetings with lobbyist, outside financial relationships between members and government contractors, members promoting specific business for government contracts, and regulatory favors and conflicts of interest between House staffers turned lobbyists and members of Congress.

“Instead of changing the way Washington works, these proposals preserve the establishment. They are a way for Washington politicians to tell voters they are serious about cleaning up corruption while actually doing very little,” continued Busby. “After reading these proposals, it is no surprise that average Americans understand that this election is about so much more than Republicans versus Democrats, it is about change versus more of the same.”

In November, Busby released the CLEAN House Act and last week released CLEAN Office. She has asked the other candidates in the race to sign onto her proposals. All the other candidates have refused to support her comprehensive reform plan.

Links: “BUSBY UNVEILS 'CLEAN HOUSE ACT',” Press Release, Nov 11, 2005, http://busbyforcongress.org/downloads/pressroom/20051121_pr_Clean-House.pdf
“BUSBY RELEASES CLEAN OFFICE PROPOSAL,” Press Release, Jan 11, 2005, http://busbyforcongress.org/downloads/pressroom/20060111_pr_clean-office.pdf

Paid for by Francine Busby for Congress. Authorized by Francine Busby.

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Francine Busby's CLEAN Proposals vs. House Democrats Proposal

	Francine Busby's Proposalⁱ	House Democratic Proposalⁱⁱ
Relationships with Government Contractors	Ban All Outside Relationships With Government Contractors	BLANK
Members Promoting Businesses	Ban Members from Promoting Specific Businesses for Government Contracts or Regulatory Favors	BLANK
Anonymous Appropriations	Eliminate Anonymous Appropriations	Requires vote on all amendments in conference committee
Privately Funded Travel	Ban All Privately Funded Congressional Travel	Bans lobbyist funded travel
Disclosure	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.	Stronger and more frequent disclosure on the part of lobbyists and third parties
Access of Former Members	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.	Doubles the cooling-off period during which lawmakers are prohibited from lobbying their former offices.
Access of Former Staffers	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.	Expanding the post-employment lobbying ban to two years for members, senior staff and executive branch officials
Lobbyist Gifts	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.	Bans all lobbyist gifts.

ⁱ Busby CLEAN House and CLEAN Office Proposal, http://busbyforcongress.org/downloads/pressroom/20051121_pr_Clean-House.pdf and http://busbyforcongress.org/downloads/pressroom/20060111_pr_clean-office.pdf

ⁱⁱ "The Honest Leadership & Open Government Act," Democratic National Committee Site, http://www.democrats.org/a/2006/01/the_democratic.php and <http://www.democrats.gov/legislation/>