

Jan 17 2006 - Republican Leadership is the Problem...Not the Cure

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Architects of Ethics Rules Roll-Back, K-Street & 'Pay to Play' Politics and the Selling of America Have No Credibility to Reform Congress

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee released the following statement today:

"I feel compelled to remind my fellow Americans that the last ethics reform proposal put forward by House Republicans was designed to gut the House Ethics Committee, protect Tom DeLay and other Republicans from further public scrutiny, and cover-up the Culture of Corruption which is undermining our government.

Today, the House Republican Leadership, in a dramatic reversal, is trying to save itself by proposing a lobby reform package that will shift all blame to lobbyists, like Jack Abramoff, who have become the public face of our Congressional crisis.

But Mr. Abramoff and his associates are just the symptom. The disease is right here in the Capitol, with the party of power in Washington.

Now is the time for all Americans to realize that the very Republican Members of Congress who put America up for sale to the highest bidder have neither the ability, nor the credibility, to lead us in a new direction.

We need fundamental reform in the United States Congress, and that means a fundamental change in House and Senate leadership. That is the only long-term solution to this growing crisis.

In addition, it should be noted that were this Republican Majority truly committed to reforming itself, it would follow and enforce the rules we already have in this House. It would have reinstated the House Ethics Committee months ago, and it would administer the Congress in an open and truly democratic fashion that does not employ late night and early morning meetings, three-hour votes, corporate giveaways, arm twisting and bribery on the House floor."