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Joan Claybrook, President

## Summary of H.R. 4682

# Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2006

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.)

Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, Government Reform, Standards of Official Conduct, Armed Services, and House Administration.

### 1. Increases Lobbying Disclosure:

- Requires lobbyists to disclose their activities quarterly.
- Mandates electronic filing of lobbying reports.
- Establishes a searchable, sortable and downloadable Internet database of reports.
- Requires disclosure on lobbyists reports of campaign contributions and fundraising activities by lobbyists for candidate, parties and leadership PACs.
- Requires disclosure of members (other than individuals) of “stealth” lobbying coalitions.
- Expands reporting to include paid grassroots lobbying activities directed at the general public (rather than at an organization’s members), but does not count paid grassroots lobbying toward the threshold that qualifies a person as a lobbyist.
- Requires development of a comprehensive on-line database that includes lobbying, ethics and campaign finance data.

### 2. Slows the Revolving Door:

- Extends the current one-year “cooling-off period” to two years for members, senior staff, and senior executive personnel, which prohibits them from making lobbying contacts with the entity in which they served.
- Requires public disclosure by members, senior staff and executive branch officials when negotiating future employment.
- Requires Office of Government Ethics to assume direct responsibility for granting waivers to executive branch officials seeking private employment when there may be a conflict of interest.
- Prohibits members and staff from influencing who lobbying firms will hire based on partisanship.

- Requires lobbyists to disclose on their lobbying registrations any previous employment with the executive or legislative branch, rather than only such employment within two years prior to acting as a lobbyist.
- Rescinds special privileges of floor and gym access for former members-turned-lobbyists.

### **3. Curbs Excesses in Congressional Travel:**

- Prohibits privately-sponsored travel for members and staff paid for by a non-governmental organization that employs registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
- Prohibits registered lobbyists from participating in privately-sponsored congressional travel.
- Requires a private entity paying for a trip to certify that the trip was not planned, organized, or financed by a lobbyist.
- Requires members to report the use of corporate jets at the full charter rate rather than at first class airfare for non-campaign-related travel.
- Requires detailed disclosure of the itinerary, purpose, and identity of others who were on the plane for any such trips.
- Requires members of Congress to disclose detailed itineraries of trips.
- Establishes reasonable ceilings on the daily cost of privately-sponsored congressional travel.

### **4. Strengthens Gift and Ethics Rules:**

- Prohibits lobbyists from giving any gifts to members or staff. Includes exceptions for family members and personal friends, campaign contributions, gifts of nominal value, and informational materials.

### **5. Strengthens Democratic Procedures in Congress:**

- Prohibits the practice of keeping votes open for the purpose of congressional leaders lobbying members on the floor of the House. Vote periods are limited to 20 minutes, unless extended with the consent of both the majority and minority floor managers.
- Ends the practice of House leadership rewriting measures reported from Committees without allowing the House to vote on the committee-reported version.
- Mandates public disclosure of which members sponsor earmarks of budget allocations for special projects and disclosure of whether Members have a financial interest in the earmark.
- Enhances competitive bidding in contracts by publishing the availability of contracts on the Internet and restricting the amount of contracts awarded to a single bidder.

**6. Toughens Enforcement:**

- Creates an Office of Public Integrity to monitor and initiate investigations of compliance to lobbying disclosure requirements.
- Provides for a civil penalty (fine of up to \$100,000) for reporting violations, criminal penalties for willful violations, and additional financial penalties for repeated violations of the travel rules.