

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13)** voted for an aggressive ethics reform package today to restore the public trust in Congress. The Honest Leadership and Open Government bill passed in a House vote of 228 to 198.

"As I talk to families in the 13th District, many of them have asked why Washington doesn't seem to be concerned about the matters that affect their everyday lives," said **Rep. Miller**. "I made ethics a priority in the state legislature and am proud that my first vote in the 110th Congress was to help restore ethics in Congress. It's time hardworking families come first and special interests last."

Among proposals included in the Ethics Reform bill:

**Bans Gifts from Lobbyists** - Members of Congress and their staff should not accept gifts or expensive meals that could sway legislators' opinions, create unethical relationships between lobbyists and legislators, or give the appearance of impropriety. House Democrats will ban gifts and meals from lobbyists and the organizations that employ them, and requires that tickets to sporting and other events given to Members and staff are valued at market prices.

**Bans Lobbyist Travel** - Lobbyists and the organizations that employ them are banned from planning, organizing, requesting, financing, arranging, or participating in travel for Members of Congress or their staff. Prohibits the use of official, personal or campaign funds to pay for the use of non-commercial, corporate jets.

**Shut Down Pay-to-Play Schemes Like the "K Street Project"** - Ends the "K Street Project," which amounted to a revolving door between Congress and lobbying firms, in which Republicans told corporations and lobbying firms who to hire in exchange for political access.

**Bans Arm Twisting for Votes** - Prohibits the practice of holding votes open for undue amounts of time for the sole purpose of using coercion to affect the outcome of a vote.

**Requires Fiscal and Budgetary Responsibility** - Republicans turned our record surplus into record deficits. The American people have to live within their budget and make ends meet day in and day out, month after month. The Congress should have to do the same. Under Democrats, the Congress will pass "pay-as-you-go" budget rules to stop any new deficit spending as the first step toward reversing record deficits mortgaging our children's future.

**Earmark Reform** - The explosion of earmarked special interest projects set the stage for the bribery scandal, in which lobbyists were providing gifts in return for special projects. Under the leadership of House Democrats, there will be no secret deals between legislators and special interests - there will be full disclosure of all earmarks, requiring Members to certify that earmarks provided would be for the public good - not financially benefiting themselves or their spouses.