

Mahoney Delivers on Promises to Reform Congressional Ethics

Creates Independent Ethics Office

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(Stuart, FL) - After passing the strongest ethics and lobbying reforms since the Watergate era, Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today delivered on his promises to reform Congressional ethics by helping pass House Resolution 895, to establish an Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) to hold members of Congress accountable for their actions.

Before being sworn in last January, Congressman Mahoney called for the creation of an Independent Ethics Office to strengthen oversight of Congress.

"The ethical challenges of 2006 taught Congress a powerful lesson: that the American people won't accept anything other than total accountability of Members of Congress," said Congressman Mahoney. "Creating the Office of Congressional Ethics will help to re-establish accountability and oversight in Washington by reviewing, strengthening and enforcing Congressional ethics."

The new rules follow the enactment of The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, which brought unprecedented transparency to lobbyists' activities and was hailed by reform groups as a "sea change for citizens" and "landmark reform."

OCE would aide the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in reviewing violations by members, delegates, officers and employees of the House of Representatives. The new House Rule passed the House of Representatives and does not require Senate consideration.

The panel has the power to initiate bipartisan investigations of Members of Congress, its staff and employees, when it deems appropriate. Investigations could only be initiated if supported by both a Democratic and Republican member of the panel. At the conclusion of an investigation, the panel would report its findings to the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics Committee) and recommend whether the committee should review the allegations.

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