

Washington, DC - Today, the U.S. House of Representatives completed action on H.Res. 6, the House Rules Package for the 110th Congress, culminating in the first bill to be passed in the 110th Congress.

The Rules Package will allow the new Democratic Majority to operate without the specter of undue influence by special interest groups. Measures will ban gifts and trips paid for by lobbyists and include rules to require pay-as-you-go budget discipline with no new deficit spending, and full transparency in the earmark process.

Congressman Charles Gonzalez issued the following statement on the passage of the House Rules Package:

"As public servants in the People's House, Members of Congress must uphold the highest ethical standards. I am proud that the first legislative efforts of the Democratic Majority aim to reign in the impropriety that has unfortunately become a trademark of Washington politics.

The House Rules Package for the 110th Congress includes ethics reforms that will end inappropriate relationships between lobbyists and Members of Congress and their staffs. It also includes changes in the appropriations and budgeting processes that will allow for more transparency and fiscal discipline. Policymakers must be held accountable for how we spend the taxpayers' money, and these new rules will help the public hold leaders responsible for our fiscal decisions.

In November, the American people cast their vote for change. I am sincerely looking forward to the opportunity to affect that change in the upcoming session of Congress."

###