

Gonzalez Votes for Greater Transparency in Campaign Ads and Spending

Washington, DC –Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez (TX – 20) issued the following statement after the passage of the DISCLOSE Act, legislation that strengthens disclosure and transparency in federal elections:

“This bill brings a new level of transparency to our election process and voters will know who is funding the political advertisements,” said Congressman Gonzalez. “Many times political ads for or against an issue or candidate are paid for by entities that have a vested interest in the outcome of an election. Yet, audiences would be unaware of the sponsor’s motivation in promoting the content of an ad. The information required by the Disclose Act doesn’t impede free speech, it just promotes truth and transparency when exercising it.”

The DISCLOSE Act requires corporations, organizations, and special interest groups to stand by their political advertising just like a candidate for office does. It will stop Wall Street, Big Oil, and U.S. corporations controlled by foreign – or even hostile – governments from secretly manipulating elections by funneling money to fly-by-night front groups that run last minute attack ads and other anonymous election advertisements.

CEOs will need to identify themselves in their advertisements, and corporations and organizations will be required to disclose their political expenditures. The bill also prohibits entities that receive taxpayer money – such as large government contractors and corporations receiving TARP funds – from turning around and spending that money to influence elections.

This landmark bill is the most far-reaching and significant campaign finance reform law since the McCain-Feingold Act, and does more to strengthen disclosure and transparency than any measure in recent history. It has been subject to extensive bipartisan debate, including six public hearings, and contains both Democratic and Republican amendments. The DISCLOSE Act has strong support from the campaign finance reform community and been endorsed by Common Cause, League of Women Voters, Public Citizen, Campaign Legal Center, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), and Democracy 21, among many other organizations.

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