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PENCE SUPPORTS ETHICS REFORMS

Washington, Jan 5, 2007 - Washington, DC--U.S. Congressman Mike Pence released the following statement on the ethics package Congress will consider tonight:

**"Effective government in a free society depends on the integrity of our institutions and public servants.
I am pleased to support this bipartisan ethics reform package as an important step toward restoring public confidence in the fundamental integrity of our legislative process."**

Background

Several of the provisions included in this title are similar or identical to provisions in the Lobbying, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (H.R. 4975), which passed the House of Representatives in the 109th Congress by the Republican majority.

The major provisions in this title include:

Bans Members of the House of Representatives from influencing the hiring decisions of private sector employers based on partisan political affiliation by threatening, offering, or withholding official acts. (Title II, section 202)

*Note: This provision was adopted in Section 203 of H.R. 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which passed the House on May 3, 2006.

Bans Members and employees of the House from knowingly accepting gifts from lobbyists and being in private sessions that employ lobbyists, regardless of value, but exempts in-plane carried entertainment. (Title I, section 205)

Prohibits an elected Member from disclosing to the public any information that is not in the public domain and that was obtained in the course of an official duty. (Title I, section 206)

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