

Altmire Votes for Landmark Reform to Make Government More Open and Accountable

(Washington, DC) - U.S. Representative Jason Altmire (PA-4) today fulfilled his pledge to bring greater transparency and accountability to business in Washington, D.C. The Honest Leadership, Open Government Act, S. 1, is the most comprehensive ethics reform legislation in decades. The Act puts an end to the egregious abuses of the K-Street project, private jet travel, and lavish parties. The conference report on S. 1 was passed today by a strong bipartisan majority of 411 to 8. The bill now moves to the president's desk for signature.

"This legislation is a dramatic step forward in fulfilling our responsibility to the American people by returning to the basic principle that the government is accountable to its citizens, not the special interests," said Congressman Altmire. "The new majority in Congress was elected to clean up Washington and today we've delivered on that promise. This legislation is structured to end the culture of corruption that plagued previous sessions of Congress."

The Honest Leadership, Open Government Act will:

- Enhance financial and campaign disclosure rules;
- Increase criminal and civil penalties for violating the Lobby Disclosure Act to \$200,000 and five years in prison;
- Ban the K-Street Project, thus prohibiting private entities from hiring and firing based on politics;
- Deny taxpayer-funded pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption while serving the American people;
- Establish an online, searchable public database of Member travel and personal financial disclosure forms; and,
- Require sitting Members of Congress to disclose job negotiations for post-Congressional employment and to recuse themselves for purposes of a conflict of interest.