

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425
September 12, 2007

Definition of "Immediate Family" for Requested Appropriations

Dear Colleague:

As you know, the "Honest Leadership and Open Government Act" requires all Senators to state in writing that neither they nor anyone in their immediate family will benefit financially from their requested appropriations.

In order to help Senators comply with this new rule, we have been asked to define the term "immediate family."

The Ethics Committee determined that, in this case, "immediate family" consists of a Senator's father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, and mother-in-law. This definition is exactly the same as the one used elsewhere—section 601 (a)—in the Act.

For your information, the Senate rule reads: "No Member, officer, or employee of the Senate shall **knowingly** use his official position to introduce, request, or otherwise aid the progress or passage of congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits a principal purpose of which is to **further only his pecuniary interest, only the pecuniary interest of his immediate family, or only the pecuniary interest of a limited class of persons or enterprises**, when he or his immediate family, or enterprises controlled by them, are members of the affected class."

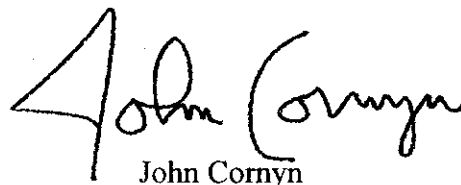
The Senate rules have long barred Senators and Senate employees from taking legislative action to financially benefit themselves or their immediate families. The Act clarifies that this long-standing rule applies to congressionally directed appropriations, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits--and requires Senators to certify that they are in compliance.

If you have any questions, please consult the Ethics Committee at 4-2981.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairman



John Cornyn
Vice Chairman