



HOUSE DEMOCRATS' TOP 100 BROKEN PROMISES

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INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the 110th Congress, the new majority came to power full of promises for a bipartisan working relationship and a landmark pledge to create the “most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history.”

Unfortunately, the first six months of Democratic control have been marked by long string of broken promises. Contrary to the pledges they made to the American people, the leaders of the current majority have delivered a more closed, intellectually-dishonest, and ethically ambivalent House of Representatives.

By decree instead of open debate, Democrats have attempted to weaken our national defense and legislate retreat from the Global War on Terror; impose the largest tax increase in American history; propose the most indiscriminate, wasteful spending this Congress has seen in decades; craft multi-billion dollar slush funds for secret earmarks; make gas prices worse by raising taxes and increasing regulation; and cut Medicare at a time when our seniors are enjoying large savings in their prescription drug medicines. This is the wrong direction for the American people.

At the six-month mark of the new majority, the following report takes a look at [House Democrats' Top 100 Broken Promises](#) – and how those broken promises have led to little, if any, accomplishments of note and a record of failure that has undermined the confidence of the American people in this Congress. The report complements efforts by other House Republicans – including the [Official Truth Squad](#) led by Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) – who are holding Democrats accountable for their promises. What are some of the most blatant promises broken thus far?

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #1: Prepared to Govern & Ready to Lead

Promise: “Democrats are prepared to govern and ready to lead.” – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, November 8, 2006**

Broken Promise: "Six months after taking over Congress, Democrats find they have accomplished little of their agenda. Perhaps not coincidentally, Congress' job approval rating has reached a dramatic low ... If they can't reverse the trend, some Democrats are starting to worry, their majority could be short-lived." – **"Democrats Promised Way More Than They've Delivered So Far,"** *Chicago Tribune*, June 21, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #2: "Open, Honest, & Ethical Congress"

Promise: "[W]e will make this the most honest, ethical and open Congress in history." – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Conference, November 8, 2006**

Broken Promise: "When Democrats recaptured the House of Representatives last November after 12 long years in the minority, they promised voters 'the most honest, the most open and the most ethical Congress.' Five months after Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her leadership team took control, that promise remains unfulfilled." – **"A Wake-Up Call For Congress,"** *Cleveland Plain Dealer* Editorial, June 10, 2007

With so little in the way of accomplishments, is it any wonder a new poll released by Gallup last week showed that just 14 percent of Americans have confidence in this Congress, an all-time low? The previous low point for Congress was 18 percent at several points in the time period from 1991 to 1994, **the last time Democrats were in power.**

Indeed one of the only meaningful accomplishments of this Congress to date has been legislation enacted to fully-fund American troops fighting the War on Terror – **a bill that was carried on the strength of a unified Republican Party.** And nearly half of the 39 bills signed into law either name federal property or build a road.

In sharp contrast, House Republicans have spoken with one voice and kept our promise made to the American people six months ago to return to our core principles and focus on a smaller, less costly, and more accountable government. Moreover, a unified Republican Conference has proven formidable, effective, and successful in exposing flaws and strengthening Democratic legislation by passing 14 GOP motions-to-recommit in just six months – **more than House Democrats were able to accomplish in their 12 year-stint in the minority.**

In many ways, the "new" Democratic majority has simply picked up where the old Democratic majority left off – a long list of broken promises, little in the way of accomplishments, and dangerously disconnected from the American people. The following pages include the top 100 broken promises from House Democrats in the first six months of their new majority.

DEMOCRATS' PROMISES: FAMILIES, HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION & RETIREMENT SECURITY

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #3: Make Children's Health Care a Priority

Promise: "In the next Congress, Democrats will take America in a New Direction, making health care for our children a real priority." – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, December 9, 2006**

Broken Promise: "The [State Children's Health Insurance Program, or S-CHIP] coverage program expires Sept. 30, but [Democratic Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman John] Dingell offered no specific timetable for marking up reauthorization legislation." – **"Dingell Plays Down Tobacco Tax as SCHIP Funding Source," *Congressional Quarterly Health Beat*, March 29, 2007.** This legislation had still not been moved by Democrats as of June 26, 2007.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #4: Universal Children's Health Care

Promise: "Universal Children's Health Care. . . [We should] make sure all parents in America have the responsibility and the means to obtain health insurance for their children." – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 55**

Broken Promise: During the first six months of the Democratic Congress, no legislation has been passed to provide universal children's health care.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #5: Improve Health Information Technology

Promise: "We need to cut the cost of health care so that. . . every child in America at last can get it. We can save hundreds of billions by adopting electronic medical records [and implementing other reforms]. . ." – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 55**

Broken Promise: Democrats have passed no legislation to improve health information technology since taking power in Congress. In 2006, the Republican-led House passed such legislation with bipartisan support (the Better Health Information System Act, H.R. 4157 – passed July 27, 2006 by a vote of 270-148) – but then-Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Chairman Emanuel voted "no."

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #6: Expand Small Business Health Care

Promise: "Instead of leaving small businesses to fend for themselves [on health care], we should give them the opportunity to pool their purchasing power." – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 113**

Promise: "We need to cut the cost of health care so that every business can afford it. . . As we [achieve savings through health care reform], we should use them to give small businesses access to the same health care plans as members of Congress. . ." – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 55**

Broken Promise: House Democrats, including now-Democratic Caucus Chairman Emanuel, unanimously opposed a House Republican proposal to enable small businesses to pool their

purchasing power and offer their employees the same health care benefits large corporations and unions can offer – even though 36 House Democrats supported this plan in the last Congress. The GOP proposal opposed by Chairman Emanuel would have significantly expanded access to health coverage for uninsured families across the country by giving small businesses the opportunity to pool their purchasing power and purchase health coverage for their workers on par with the plans used by larger businesses and the federal government. – [Roll Call Vote #17, January 10, 2007](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #7: Make Prescription Drugs More Affordable

Promise: “We will begin by making prescription drugs more affordable for our seniors by allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower prices.” – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, August 16, 2006**

Broken Promise: Six months after Democrats took power in Congress, their “Six for ‘06” Medicare price control legislation remains stalled in the Democrat-controlled Senate, and no such legislation has been sent to the President.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #8: Lower Drug Prices For ALL Americans

Promise: “This crucial legislation requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices on behalf of the more than 22 million Americans in Medicare prescription drug plans...This is just the beginning of Democratic efforts to ensure that quality health care is accessible and affordable for the American people.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, January 12, 2007**

Broken Promise: “The [nonpartisan] Congressional Research Service said that if the government negotiated lower drug prices for Medicare, pharmaceutical companies might respond by increasing prices for other buyers.” – **“Bush Threatens Veto of Medicare Drug Bill, But a Senator is Seeking Middle Ground,” *New York Times*, January 12, 2007.** After six full months, not a single bill to make more accessible and affordable for the American people has been sent to President Bush by the Democrat-controlled Congress.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #9: Cut Loan Interest Rates in Half for Parents

Promise: “Our new direction plan will slash interest rates on college loans in half to ... 4.25% for parents.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 17**

Broken Promise: “Although Kennedy’s proposal would reduce rates on parent-borrowed PLUS loans to 4.25 percent from 8.5, the House bill offers no break.” – **“Bills to Ease Student Loan Rates on Hill,” *Chicago Tribune*, February 4, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #10: Cut Loan Interest Rates in Half for Students

Promise: “Our New Direction plan will slash interest rates on college loans in half to 3.4% for students ...” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 17**

Broken Promise: Democrats drastically scaled back their plans for a student loan interest rate cut shortly after taking power in Congress. And six months after Democrats took power, no legislation to cut student loan interest rates – temporarily or otherwise – has been sent to the President. “The much-touted House Democratic measure to slash in half student loan interest rates over five years has been drafted to offer only temporary relief.” – **“House Dems Offer Only Temporary Student Loan Rate Cut,” *CongressDaily AM*, January 16, 2007.**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #11: Improve College Access for All

Promise: “A college education is as important today as high school was a generation ago – and Democrats intend to make attending college just as affordable and available to all.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) [“A New Direction for America,”](#) Page 17**

Broken Promise: “‘It’s a great sound bite – cutting rates in half,’ says Mark Kantrowitz, the publisher of FinAid.org, which gives information about ways to pay for college. ‘But it’s an incredibly expensive proposal with very little student aid benefit. The benefit ... comes after students have graduated, which makes it unlikely to get more low-income students to enroll in college, especially since they tend to fear debt more.’” – **“Congress Moves to Cut College Loan Costs,” *Christian Science Monitor*, January 16, 2007.** Six months after Democrats took power in Congress, no legislation to make college more affordable or accessible has been sent to the President. In June, House Education & Labor Committee Democrats also voted en masse against a GOP alternative proposal that would have used savings from higher education programs to increase funding for the Pell Grant college access program by \$12 billion over the next five years, instead voting for a Democratic measure that puts the bulk of that money into benefits for individuals who have already graduated from college and earned a degree.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #12: Reward Teachers for Performance

Promise: “It’s time to revive the standards movement [by] attracting top-flight teachers by rewarding them for performance, not just credentials ...” – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 77**

Broken Promise: As Democratic Caucus Chairman, Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) is co-sponsor of a bill that fails to fulfill his promise – the Teacher Excellence for All Children Act (H.R. 2204), legislation authored by Education and Labor Committee Democrats that places a premium on teacher credentials and tenure, rather than on classroom performance. Republicans, however, have stepped forward with legislation to reward good teachers for good performance. Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) has introduced the Teacher Incentive Fund Act (H.R. 1761), a Republican alternative to provide grants to local school districts to design and implement their own performance pay systems to reward teachers for closing the achievement gap inside the classroom.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #13: Universal Retirement Savings

Promise: “From now on, every job ought to come with a 401(k). . . Employers should be required to offer 401(k)s, and workers will be enrolled unless they choose otherwise.” – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 55**

Promise: “[W]e should require all employers to offer workers a pension or 401(k)” – *The Plan, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 91*

Broken Promise: As of June 27, 2007, no legislation to encourage universal retirement savings has been passed by the Democratic Congress. In fact, last year the majority of House Democrats (including now-Speaker Nancy Pelosi) voted against the Pension Protection Act, the most comprehensive reforms of the worker pension system in more than a generation. Of note, the Pension Protection Act included measures to automatically enroll employees into worker 401(k) savings plans. – [Roll Call Vote #422](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #14: No More Borrowing from Social Security

Promise: “We will not borrow the money from the Social Security trust fund and from other creditors around the world.” – **Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), House Floor Remarks, March 28, 2007**

Broken Promise: 215 Democrats, including Democratic Rep. Rob Andrews (D-NJ), voted “NO” on a Republican proposal to prohibit increases in authorization spending levels if the Social Security surplus has been spent the previous year. – [Roll Call Vote #300 on May 3, 2007](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #15: Protect Social Security

Promise: “And we will ensure retirement security every day by protecting Social Security, protecting pensions and making savings easier for retirement for our seniors.” – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) “Press Conference,” July 28, 2006**

Broken Promise: “[The Democrats’] spending plan does nothing at all to address the problems facing the Social Security and Medicare systems, which are growing ever closer to spending more than they take in as the gigantic baby boom generation ages and retires.” – **“A New Budget Proposal in No Way Unassuming,” *The Republican* (Springfield, MA) Editorial, May 17, 2007**

Broken Promise: House Democrats voted en masse against a House Republican substitute budget that would have achieved balance by 2012 while ending the raid on Social Security, voting instead for a Democratic budget that allows the raid to continue.

DEMOCRATS' PROMISES: MAKING AMERICA ENERGY INDEPENDENT

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #16: Lower Gasoline Prices

Promise: "Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices...join Democrats who are working to lower gas prices now." – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, April 19, 2006**

Broken Promise: "The average price of gasoline hit \$3.218 a gallon Monday, up a stunning 11.5 cents the past week and just half a penny shy of the inflation-adjusted record, the government reported. The average is almost certain this week to pass the inflation-adjusted high of \$3.223, recorded in May 1981 by the Energy Information Administration." – **"Average Gasoline Price Nears 1981 Average," USA Today, May 22, 2007.** Democrats have been in power for six months, and gas prices have gone *up*, not down.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #17: Make Energy Reform a Top Priority

Promise: "Democrats promise to hit the ground running on energy issues if they win control of the House or Senate. Responding to voters' concerns about \$3-a-gallon gasoline and the soaring cost of home-heating oil, Democratic leaders in both chambers have ranked energy as one of their top priorities for the next Congress." – **"Energy Reserving a Front Burner," National Journal, September 9, 2006**

Broken Promise: "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) issued a clear directive soon after Democrats took control of Congress this year, promising a comprehensive energy and climate change bill on the House floor by the Fourth of July. But with five legislative work weeks to go before that deadline, House Democrats are still left with the task of cobbling together a bill from as many as 11 committees...As for the deadline itself, a House Democratic aide close to the process said the package will not arrive on the House floor before the July Fourth recess." – **"Energy Policy Moving on Multiple Fronts," Energy & Environment Daily, May 18, 2007.** Six months after Democrats took power in Congress, no comprehensive energy reform has even been passed by the House, much less sent to the President.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #18: Make Global Warming a Top Priority

Promise: "The most urgent environmental issue facing us today [is] global warming." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) ["A New Direction for America,"](#) Page 9**

Broken Promise: "Pelosi Says Global Warming Bill Might Wait Until Next Year," – **Headline, CongressDaily PM, June, 1, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #19: Eliminate Reliance on Foreign Oil

Promise: "To free America from dependence on foreign oil, we will achieve energy independence for America by 2020 by eliminating reliance on oil from the Middle East and other unstable regions of the world." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) ["A New Direction for America,"](#) Page 6**

Broken Promise: During the first six months of the Democrat-controlled Congress, no energy independence legislation has been passed by the House, much less sent to the President's desk. But 228 Democrats voted to impose more than \$6.5 billion in new taxes on

small and independent American energy producers, which will lead to less domestic supply, higher prices for consumers, and an increase in America's dependence on foreign sources. – [Roll Call Vote #40](#) on January 18, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #20: Invest in Alternative Fuels

Promise: “Besides encouraging the biofuel market and infrastructure, it also aims to encourage coal-to-liquids as an alternative fuel through the U.S. military's purchasing power. The majority leader said the bill is complementary to the rural working group's biofuels act and has the support of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell, D-Mich.” – “**US Rep Hoyer: \$15B Energy Bill Outlines House Democrats' Plans,**” *Dow Jones*, March 1, 2007

Broken Promise: “The coal-to-liquids amendment showcased the difficult debate ahead for Democratic leaders as they try to craft multiple bills this year dealing with energy and global warming. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calf.) is not an advocate of coal-to-liquids plants...” – “**Coal-to-Liquids Vote Caps House Energy Markup,**” *Environment & Energy Daily*, June 21, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #21: Redirect Energy Dollars Toward Domestic Production

Promise: “Our New Direction will send our energy dollars to the Midwest, not to the Middle East.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA)** “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 9

Broken Promise: “The Rahall energy bill proposes a systematic stripping of provisions from the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) that aimed to increase access for new energy development on federal lands.” – “**Independent Oil Producers Ally With Wind Against Rahall's Energy Bill,**” *Energy Washington*, June 6, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #22: Expand Renewable Energy

Promise: “Double the percentage of renewable fuels sold in America. Make sure that... cellulosic sources, such as switch grass are a key part of that increase.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA)** “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 10

Broken Promise: “Currently, according to the ethanol industry's list of producers in the United States, none of the ethanol comes from cellulosic... and even if commercial plants can be built, the process may still prove too expensive to compete with corn ethanol.” – “**Will Cellulosic Ethanol Take Off?**” *Technology Review*, February 27, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #23: Make America More Competitive on Energy

Promise: “Democrats stand for... finding meaningful solutions to our energy crisis. We will make America more competitive and not heap mountains of debt on future generations.” – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**, Press Conference, June 16, 2006

Broken Promise: “The main challengers to U.S. economic power – Brazil, Russia, India and China – have overtaken the United States in dominating the global energy industry, according to a new study by Goldman Sachs.” – **Study: “BRICs' Overtake U.S. in Energy,**” *Associated Press*, Tuesday, June 26, 2007. House Democrats weakened U.S.

energy competitiveness by voting to repeal the American-energy production initiatives crafted by Republicans as part of the 2005 Energy Policy Act and instead replacing them with new bureaucratic roadblocks that undermine efforts to increase domestic energy supplies for consumers in the future. – [Roll Call Vote #40](#), January 18, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #24: Research & Development for American Energy Security

Promise: “We have a strong commitment to research and development.” – **Then-Minority-Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**, *Press Conference*, September 7, 2006

Broken Promise: As part of the FY 2008 Interior Appropriations bill, Democrats voted to eliminate the Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas Research and Development Program created by Republicans in 2005 and utilized by petroleum engineers at 23 major research universities and four non-profit research institutions. – **H.R. 2463, FY 2008 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act**, [Roll Call Vote #579](#), June 27, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #25: Expand Renewable Energy Sources

Promise: “Senate Democrats. . .are renewing their effort to require electric utilities to produce more power from renewable sources such as wind and solar. . . [M]any House Democrats. . .are on record supporting a renewable standard. . .House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. . . ‘believes that we need to increase the amount of electricity that comes from renewables in the United States above where we are today,’ a Pelosi aide said.” – **“Senate Democrats See Opening for Renewable Standard,”** *Congressional Quarterly Green Sheets*, May 25, 2007

Broken Promise: “Wind energy advocates say the [House Democrats’] bill could significantly cripple the burgeoning industry, and they brand the measure ‘anti-wind.’ A release from the American Wind Energy Association last month said the [House Democrats’] plan could ‘essentially outlaw’ the generation of electricity from new wind power plants in the United States.” – **“A Pesky proposal for Wind Power Plants,”** *Associated Press*, June 4, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #26: “Energize America” Through Energy Independence

Promise: “Democrats will energize America by declaring energy independence ... That is our commitment.” – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**, *Annual 2006 Take Back America Conference*, June 14, 2006

Broken Promise: During their first six months, House Democrats have declared only that they are incapable of governing when it comes to matters such as energy policy. Instead of passing comprehensive legislation as promised to make America less dependent on foreign energy sources, House Democrats have offered legislation that would make energy independence more difficult by “dissuad[ing] U.S. refiners from investing billions to expand refining capacity to meet rising demand. Instead of lower prices. . .the legislation could cause higher prices by unintentionally capping or restricting domestic refinery capacity.” – **“Wrong Direction,”** *Houston Chronicle* Editorial, June 24, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #27: Promote Coal Technology

Promise: "As the U.S. chases larger oil supplies, we are failing to notice the flashing neon signs pointing to the potential of our most abundant domestic energy resource – coal. Liquefaction and gasification technologies are available right under our noses. They are being used with success by some of our most assertive foreign economic competitors who recognize the folly of dependence on oil and are doing something about it. It's time we did as well." – **Then-Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee, Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), Press Release, April 26, 2006**

Promise: "With a nation hard and fast on a petroleum diet for decades to come brought forth by the pending legislation, the widespread commercialization of coal-to-liquids technology to fuel our vehicles will continue to be an elusive goal. I have never forsaken the coal miners in my Congressional District, and I am not about to do so now." – **Then-Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee, Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), Floor Statement, June 29, 2006**

Broken Promise: "Republicans also may offer an amendment to boost coal production to put [now-House Resources Committee Chairman] Rahall in a tough spot, the aide said. Rahall represents a coal-mining district but his bill does not address coal." – **"House GOP Plans Amendments to Counter Rahall Energy Bill," Dow Jones Newswire, June 6, 2007.** In fact, Chairman Rahall opposed several amendments to promote coal technology that are in the best interests of his own district.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #28: Increase Biofuels Sold in America

Promise: "It is a comprehensive and innovative plan, and it fuels our economy while fueling our cars. We will increase the amount of biofuels sold in America; encourage independent and locally-owned facilities to produce biofuels so they can compete with Big Oil; increase the number of vehicles that run on ethanol and makes biofuels more readily available to consumers at the pump; and invest in research and development to improve the use of renewable energy." – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release , May 11, 2006**

Broken Promise: "The [Senate] energy bill, approved late Thursday, would require usage of 36 billion gallons of biofuels by 2022, about six times the amount of fuel ethanol that U.S. motorists will use this year. The road ahead in the House is not clear. The House Energy and Commerce Committee is to take up an energy bill Wednesday, but the panel has put off until this fall its plan to require higher usage of alternative fuels, which would include coal-derived fuels as well as ethanol. Liberal Democrats objected to the inclusion of coal fuels that fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." – **"Biofuels Focus Moves to House," DesMoines Register, June 22, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #29: Buck Special Interests on Energy

Promise: "'We made history and now we will make progress for the American people,' [Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)] said. 'We will not be dazzled by money and special interests.'" – **"Hoyer Wins House Majority Leader Race, Giving Pelosi First Setback," Fox News, November 16, 2006**

Broken promise: "Powerful Interest Groups Stymie Democrats' Energy Bill." – **Headline, *CNN Politics*, June 18, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #30: Make July 4 "Energy Independence Day"

Promise: "We'll make this Fourth of July energy independence day..." – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Conference, May 9, 2007**

Broken Promise: "The House energy bill has devolved into a heated internecine battle that threatens to spoil Democrats' hopes of passing an overhaul of energy policy by July 4." – **"Pelosi Vs. Dingell Heats Up; Energy Tension Rises at Meeting," *Roll Call*, June 13, 2007.** House members will depart for the Fourth of July district work period without passing energy independence legislation of any kind.

DEMOCRATS' PROMISES: NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #31: Implement ALL 9/11 Commission Recommendations

Promise: "On the first day we control Congress, we will begin by passing all of the 9/11 Commission recommendations." – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, July 21, 2006**

Promise: "House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi says she plans to pass all of the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations within 100 legislative hours of a Democratic takeover of the House of Representatives." – **"Pelosi Plan to Swiftly Enact Recommendations of 9/11 Commission Short on Specifics," *Congressional Quarterly*, November 6, 2006**

Broken Promise: "On the eve of last November's elections, then-minority leader Pelosi promised that Democrats would implement all the 9/11 commission recommendations in their first day in office. But it leaves out key provisions of that prestigious panel that were considered and rejected in the GOP-controlled Congress: It does not take up panel recommendations to declassify the top line of the intelligence budget; It would not shift covert paramilitary operations from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Defense Department; It skirts the lead recommendation of the 9/11 commission for members of Congress: to dramatically reduce the number of committees that claim oversight over homeland security." – **"Pelosi Plan to Swiftly Enact Recommendations of 9/11 Commission Short on Specifics," *Congressional Quarterly*, November 6, 2006**

Broken Promise: "But the [9/11 bill] package will not include a reorganization of congressional oversight of the Homeland Security Department or an attempt to declassify the intelligence budget, despite the fact that those, too, were key recommendations. Although Democrats pledged during the election to implement all of the commission's unfulfilled recommendations, aides now concede that doing so will be harder than they thought." – **"Dems Drop Some 9/11 Panel Proposals From Agenda," *CongressDaily AM*, December 15, 2006**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #32: Pass Clean Spending Bills Without Iraq Policy Changes

Promise: "House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee ranking member John Murtha, D-Pa., told reporters last week that he would not use the spending bill to enact policy on Iraq -- a war he strongly opposes." – **"Dems To Reorder Defense Priorities, But Not Slash Budgets," *Congress Daily PM*, October 27, 2006**

Broken Promise: An editorial in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* accused Democrats of using the supplemental spending bill to author "resolutions that would severely restrict supplies and reinforcements" for American troops in harm's way, and would "tie the president's hands by imposing all kinds of conditions on his ability to reinforce the troops." – ***Arkansas Democrat Gazette* Editorial, February 21, 2006**. CNN's John Roberts questioned Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) about his "slow bleed" scheme to undermine our generals and our troops on the ground ("**American Morning**," **CNN, April 24, 2007**):

JOHN ROBERTS: You heard what President Bush said, that Congress shouldn't be micromanaging the war. What do you say?

REP. JOHN MURTHA: That's our job, John.

On the upcoming Department of Defense spending bill, it's clear House Democrats and Rep. Murtha do intend to attach the latest version of his "slow bleed" scheme to undermine our troops: "House Democratic leaders are considering votes next month on another legislative package aimed at changing course in Iraq, and might announce those plans this week, aides said Monday. ... The Iraq language would be attached to the Defense appropriations bill." – **"Dems Weighing Next Attempt To Change Course In Iraq War," *Congress Daily PM*, June 26, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #33: Protect U.S. Ports

Promise: "Immediately implement the recommendations of the independent, bipartisan 9/11 Commission including securing national borders, ports airports and mass transit systems." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction for America](#)," Page 5**

Broken Promise: According to the 9/11 Commission, "The small terrorist travel intelligence collection and analysis program currently in place [the anti-terror ATS-P terrorist screening program] has produced disproportionately useful results. It should be expanded." But during consideration of the Homeland Security authorization bill in May, 160 House Democrats voted *against* a Republican proposal to give the Homeland Security Department the authority to continue utilizing the anti-terror ATS-P terrorist screening program. – **[Roll Call Vote #317](#) on May 9, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #34: "A New Strategy to Win the War on Terror"

Promise: "[A New Strategy to Win the War on Terror](#). . . We need to use all the tools of American power to make our country safe." – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, page 56**

Broken Promise: "[House Democrats on the Armed Services Committee are] banishing the global war on terror from the 2008 defense budget. This is not because the war has been won, lost or even called off, but because the committee's Democratic leadership doesn't like the phrase." – ***Military Times*, "No More GWOT, House Committee Decrees," April 4, 2007**

Broken Promise: "Democrats have banned the phrase 'global war on terror' from the draft Pentagon budget, arguing that it is a propagandist term. . ." – ***The Daily Telegraph*, "Democrats Put End to Global War on Terror," April 10, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #35: Support U.S. Troops in Harm's Way

Promise: "Democrats will never cut off funding for our troops when they are in harm's way..." – **Interview with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), *ABC News*' Diane Sawyer, January 19, 2007**

Promise: "But we will always be there to protect our troops and to support our troops." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), CBS's *Face the Nation*, January 7, 2007**

Broken Promise: "Cutting funding, Katie, is seen as a very unpopular thing, even among a number of Democrats who think it could be construed as not supporting the troops. So Murtha's proposal is a way to get at the same goal without holding a vote to cut funding." – **CBS Evening News Correspondent Sharyl Atkisson, February 15, 2007**

Broken Promise: "After months of denying that they were about to cut off funding for the troops or impose a rigid timeline for withdrawal from Iraq, the Democrats in Congress are about to do just that." – **"The Defeatist Democrats," *New York Sun* Editorial, March 9, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #36: Fund Key Intelligence Programs

Promise: "We all, Democrats and Republicans alike, take very seriously our responsibility to protect the American people. We know the important role that intelligence plays in that." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Press Conference, January 8, 2007**

Promise: "This bill contains robust funding for critical intelligence programs ..." – **House Intelligence Committee Chairman Sylvestre Reyes (D-TX), Floor Remarks, May 10, 2007**

Broken Promise: Democrats pledged to provide full funding for critical intelligence programs – but just months after taking power, they took precious resources away from critical intelligence programs and used the money to fund research on global warming instead. "Led by U.S. Rep. Sylvestre Reyes of Texas, a coalition of D.C. Democrats say national security will be better served if CIA cash is used for global warming research – because apparently there just aren't enough people studying the issue out there." – **"'Intelligence' Committee Threatens National Security," *Detroit News* Editorial, May 13, 2007**

Broken Promise: "One defeated amendment, offered by the Intelligence Committee's top Republican, Peter Hoekstra of Michigan, would have deleted a requirement that the intelligence community produce a report on the national security ramifications of climate change. Democrats and Republicans fought bitterly over the requirement, with Republicans alleging that an assessment of global warming's implications for national security would be a waste of intelligence resources" – **"House Passes Intelligence Measure," *Congressional Quarterly*, May 11, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #37: Increase Human Intelligence

Promise: "To defeat terrorists and stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, we will...increase our human intelligence capabilities." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction for America](#)," Page 5**

Broken Promise: In May, just months after taking power, House Democrats approved cuts to classified human intelligence programs to combat radical Islamists – then voted en masse against a Republican motion that would have increased funding for human intelligence

programs by \$23 million by shifting funds away from an illegitimate earmark requested by senior Democratic Rep. John Murtha (D-PA). – [Roll Call Vote #340 on May 11, 2007](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #38: Reclaim American Leadership

Promise: “Reclaim American leadership with a tough, smart plan to transform failed Bush Administration policies in Iraq, the Middle East and around the world.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA)** [“A New Direction for America,”](#) Page 1

Broken Promise: “It [Democrats’ plan] is an initial step by newly empowered congressional Democrats to completely undermine the war by limiting funds – to deny the troops the beans and bullets they need to win, and to broadcast to America’s enemies in the Middle East and around the world that the United States has lost the will to protect itself, and its friends.” – **“Dems’ Disgrace,”** *New York Post* Editorial, February 17, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #39: Renew Strategic Alliances

Promise: “...renew longstanding alliances that have advanced our national security objectives.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA)** [“A New Direction for America,”](#) Page 5

Broken Promise: Instead of renewing alliances with countries that support our national security objectives, Democratic leaders have reached out to nations that sponsor terrorism, over the objections of the U.S. Department of State. “House Speaker Nancy Pelosi apparently is willing to meet with Syrian President Bashar Assad – even though Syria has supported terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah and allowed terrorists to cross the Syrian border with Iraq to attack U.S. troops... – **“Pelosi’s Syria,”** *San Francisco Chronicle* Editorial, April 12, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #40: Defend Human Rights

Promise: “...lead international efforts to uphold and defend human rights.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA)** [“A New Direction for America,”](#) Page 5

Broken Promise: Despite promises to uphold and defend human rights abroad, Democratic leaders have been largely silent on such issues, most notably during Speaker Pelosi’s widely criticized trip to Syria. “Pelosi and the Dems should begin crafting a new vision for the region by tying American aid and military support to substantial and publicly declared steps toward democracy and respect for human rights – not only in Iraq, but in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Pakistan. And not more trips like Pelosi’s junket to Syria without loud public demands for human rights reforms. – **“Pelosi’s Petty Politics,”** *New York Daily News* Editorial, May 27, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #41: Strengthen Intelligence Oversight

Promise: On naming Rep. Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee: “Congressman Silvestre Reyes has impeccable national security credentials.” – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA),** Press Release, December 1, 2006

Broken Promise: “Six-term Texas Democrat Sylvestre Reyes, the incoming chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, revealed to Congressional Quarterly Friday that he does not know whether al-Qaida is Sunni or Shiite Muslim (answer: Sunni). Reyes also could not say what Hezbollah is (answer: the Lebanon-based militia behind the 1983 Beirut bombing that

killed more than 200 U.S. Marines)." – "Intel 101," *Press-Enterprise* (Riverside, CA) Editorial, December 13, 2006

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #42: Promote "Smart & Tough" Security

Promise: "Democrats are committed to protecting our country with real security initiatives that are smart and tough." – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) Press Release, October 25, 2006**

Broken Promise: House Democrats brought legislation to the House floor supporting the transfer of responsibility for a critical national security program to the United Nations, and then 230 Democrats voted against a GOP motion-to-recommit which would have prohibited this transfer of responsibility and made clear that America's national security is the responsibility of America alone. – [Roll Call Vote #4](#), January 4, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #43: Protect U.S. Borders

Promise: "I believe there is virtually unanimous agreement in the Congress that we must secure our borders and know who is entering our country." – **Then-House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Press Release, May 25, 2006**

Promise: "Democrats are for the rule of law, we want to get border security right. . . We would do what's necessary to protect our borders ..." – **Then-House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, Press Release, December 15, 2005**

Broken Promise: Just six months after Democrats took power in the House, 214 House Democrats voted against a Republican proposal to "provide the funds necessary for the construction of at least two layers of reinforced fencing, the installation of additional physical barrier, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors pursuant to section 102(b)(1) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1986..." – **GOP Motion to Recommit on H.R. 2638, [Roll Call Vote #490](#) on June 15, 2007**

Broken Promise: 218 Democrats voted against an amendment by Rep. John Carter (R-TX) to strike new bureaucratic hurdles in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill designed to undermine the Department's efforts to complete the construction of the fence along the border. As Brit Hume said recently on Fox News: "House Democrats added more than a dozen new rules the administration must meet before it can spend more money on the border fence." – **Special report with Brit Hume, *Fox News*, June 18, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #44: Allow Fair & Open Debate on Iraq

Promise: "In perhaps the biggest break from the current practices of GOP leaders, Pelosi said she would be willing to lose votes on the floor." – **"Pelosi: Bipartisanship Gets Major Role If Democrats Regain Control of House," *CongressDaily AM*, May 18, 2006**

Broken Promise: Just weeks after taking power – faced with the possibility that a Republican resolution on Iraq could pass with some Democratic support – House Democratic leaders showed they are not willing to lose votes on the floor, by shutting out the GOP and refusing to allow Republicans to offer its alternative measure. "After more than a week of discussion over how – and whether – to allow the Republican minority to raise its alternative to a resolution condemning President Bush's proposed troop increase in Iraq, House

Democratic leaders opted Monday night to prevent the GOP from offering its own measure.”
– **“GOP Boxed Out on Iraq; Democrats Change Debate Plan,”** *Headline, Roll Call, February 13, 2007*

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #45: Make America Safer

Promise: “Today we begin our first 100 hours, our policy package. We will begin by making America safer...” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), *National Public Radio, January 9, 2007***

Broken Promise: “Congressional Democrats voted to cut funds for a Europe-based missile defense system ...” – **“Dems Look to Halt Missile Defense,” *Centre Daily Times, June 7, 2007***

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #46: Destroy Al Qaeda Networks

Promise: “[Democrats want to]...destroy terrorist networks like al Qaeda...” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 5**

Broken Promise: During their first six months in power, Democratic leaders tried repeatedly to stop U.S. forces from engaging in military operations against al Qaeda in Iraq, even contradicting statements made by America’s generals in the field concerning the nature of the enemy. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) called it disingenuous to “claim that the fight in Iraq is primarily against Al Qaeda.” – **Press Statement, April 25, 2007.** General David Petraeus, however, said “a number of Sunni Arab tribes” in Iraq were joining “the fight against Al Qaeda, saying ‘No more, they’ve had it’ and linking arms with the coalition to take on Al Qaeda in one city after another...” - **General David Petraeus, Press Conference, April 25, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #47: Send Additional Troops to Iraq

Promise: In December, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Silvestre Reyes stated, “We have to consider the need for additional troops to be in Iraq, to take out the militias and stabilize Iraq ... I would say 20,000 to 30,000 – for the specific purpose of making sure those militias are dismantled, working in concert with the Iraqi military.” – **“We Can’t Afford to Leave,” *Newsweek, December 5, 2007***

Broken Promise: “All of a sudden, Reyes disagrees with Bush, which is to say, with his own original position. ‘We don’t have the capability to escalate even to this minimum level,’ he explained. He went on to accuse Bush of pushing the same old Iraq policy, even though, again, Bush’s policy is identical to the one Reyes himself had been advocating just weeks before.” – **Tucker Carlson, MSNBC, January 19, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #48: Allow Vote on Alternative Iraq Resolution

Promise: On NBC’s ‘Meet the Press’ (February 11, 2007), House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) promised to give Republicans a vote on an alternative to the Democrats’ bill designed to choke off funding for troops in harm’s way:

REP. BOEHNER: If you are not going to cut off troops -- cut off the funding for the troops in harm's way, why not allow Republicans to bring a resolution to the floor and let the House vote up or down on the resolution?

REP. HOYER: That's a good question and you are going to have that opportunity.

REP. BOEHNER: When?

REP. HOYER: Initially the first thing we are going to do --

REP. BOEHNER: When?

REP. HOYER: Within the next 35, 40 days.

Broken Promise: To date, Democratic leaders have refused to allow a vote on the Republican resolution offered by Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX) supporting America's troops in harm's way.

DEMOCRATS' PROMISES: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & TAXES

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #49: Restore Fiscal Responsibility

Promise: "Democrats offer a New Direction which includes fiscal responsibility." – **Democratic Caucus Chairman James Clyburn, Press Release, October 10, 2006**

Promise: "We will work together to lead the House of Representatives with a commitment to integrity, to civility, and to fiscal responsibility." – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, November 16, 2006**

Promise: "It is imperative to the future of our nation that we come together – Democrats and Republicans – and restore fiscal responsibility." – **Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Press Release, January 23, 2007**

Broken Promise: "[Now-Democratic Whip James Clyburn (D-SC)] also said he loves appearing in the [Citizens Against Government Waste] Pig Book. 'I want to be there as often as I possibly can for as much money as I possibly can,' he said." – **"Clyburn Defends Budget Earmarks," *The Post and Courier* (Charleston, SC), February 21, 2007**

Broken Promise: "...Democrats resorted to begging, threatening and, worst of all, bribing members for their votes with \$21 billion in pork-barrel projects...Loading a bill that's supposed to keep our soldier in bullets, boots, and beans with pork-barrel bribes for congressional colleagues must be a low point in the history of the U.S. Congress. This destroys any pretense Democrats have to being a party of fiscal responsibility and good government." – **"Buying Votes; Military Funding Bill a Stain on Congress," *The Gazette* Editorial (Colorado Springs, CO), March 27, 2007**

Broken Promise: "It's hard to say which is worse: [Democratic] leaders offering peanuts for a vote of this magnitude, or members allowing their votes to be bought for peanuts." – **"Pork Has No Place in 'Emergency' War Bill," *USA Today* Editorial, March 22, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #50: Keep Taxes Low for Middle-Class Families

Promise: Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) promised, in response to a reporter's question, that House Democrats would not raise taxes on middle-class families:

QUESTION: If Democrats do take back control of Congress, how concerned should the average American be about a possible increase in his or her taxes?

PELOSI: "Not at all. Democrats are talking about no deficit – we're talking about fiscal responsibility." – **Press Conference, July 28, 2006**

Broken Promise: "Democrats also put their stamp on managing the country's finances with [a budget] effectively resulting in the largest tax increase in history." – **"Report Card; Sound, Fury Outweigh Substance So Far," *The Oklahoman* Editorial, April 2, 2007.** The Democrats' budget includes a tax hike of at least \$217 billion by fiscal year 2012, and

includes a tax hike “trigger” that would reimpose the marriage penalty and cut the child tax credit in half, tax hikes that would have a direct impact on middle-class families.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #51: Expand the Child Tax Credit

Promise: “In an Oct. 5 speech at Georgetown University, House Minority Leader Pelosi pledged to make the child tax credit more generous for lower-income families...” – **“Taxes – Democrats Would Pare the List of Potential Tax Changes,” *CongressDaily PM*, October 19, 2006**

Broken Promise: “The Senate budget resolution (S Con Res 21) included an amendment by Finance Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., that proposes using a \$132 billion projected fiscal 2012 surplus to pay for extending the tax cuts, such as those affecting married couples, the child tax credit and estate tax changes. The House version (H Con Res 99) does not make room for those tax provisions which expire in 2010.” – **“Tax-Cut Proposal Rides With House-Adopted Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution,” *Congressional Quarterly*, May 8, 2007.** The *Washington Post* also reported earlier this year that “[W]hile House Democrats say they want to preserve key parts of Bush’s signature tax cuts, they project a surplus in 2012 only by assuming that all of the cuts **expire** on schedule in 2010.” – **“Budget Plan Wipes Out Deficit But Leaves \$50 Billion Dilemma,” *Washington Post*, March 29, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #52: Pass Budget Without Tax Hikes

Promise: “There are no tax increases in this [budget].” – **Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House Floor Remarks, March 29, 2007**

Broken Promise: “But both the House and Senate [Democratic] budgets implicitly require tax increases in the years ahead. Neither offers any guidance about where the needed extra revenue would come from.” – **“House Budget Is Clear on Spending, Vague on Revenue,” *New York Times*, March 30, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #53: Repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax

Promise: “[T]he Wyden-Emanuel tax reform plan... eliminates the Alternative Minimum Tax...” – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 138**

Broken Promise: “House Ways and Means Chairman Charles Rangel (D., N.Y.) is believed to be considering a permanent exemption for households below a given income level, rather than repealing the AMT altogether, as some lawmakers have proposed.” – **“Alternative Minimum Tax; Rein It In,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 16, 2007.** Six months after taking power in Congress, Democrats have yet to move legislation of any kind to repeal or reform the AMT – a tax Democrats created.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #54: Make AMT Overhaul a “Centerpiece” of their Budget

Promise: “Democratic leaders this week vowed to make the alternative minimum tax a centerpiece of next year’s budget debate...” – **“Alternative Minimum Tax Targeted,” *Washington Post*, November 11, 2006**

Broken Promise: “Democratic leaders have made overhauling the AMT a top priority, but they have yet to lay out a plan ...” – **“Budget Plan Wipes Out Deficit But Leaves \$50 Billion Dilemma,”** *Washington Post*, March 29, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #55: Reform Entitlement Spending to Protect Future Generations

Promise: “This summer, Office of Management and Budget Director Rob Portman said the administration would return to entitlements and taxes in earnest following the elections. Senior Democrats on the House & Senate budget committees, Sen. Kent Conrad (N.D.) and Rep. John Spratt (S.C.), responded by saying Congress, not the administration, must drive those efforts.” – **“Bush, Democrats Face Legislative Opportunities and Obstacles,”** *The Hill*, November 9, 2006

Broken Promise: “But the [Democratic budget] plan puts off tough and divisive decisions ... [Democrats] did not include proposals to control the growth of entitlement programs that are projected to swamp the rest of the budget in coming decades as the baby-boom generation retires.” – **“House Democrats Narrowly Pass Budget Test,”** *Congressional Quarterly*, March 29, 2007

Broken Promise: “[The Democratic budget] does nothing to curtail runaway entitlement spending.” – **“Prepare for Fiscal Irresponsibility,”** *Tallahassee Democrat Editorial*, April 16, 2007.

Broken Promise: “Ignoring experts’ repeated warnings about the unsustainable rate of entitlement spending, the [Democrats’ budget] does nothing, and puts off any major reform for at least 5 years. . .The only “savings” under the expedited procedure of budget reconciliation are a meager \$750 million – out of a total of roughly \$8.5 trillion in mandatory spending over the next 5 years. The ‘savings’ are really just a fig leaf providing filibuster protection to expand big-government spending by as much as \$22 billion. This is not reform, and it does nothing to address the massive entitlement problem.” – **House Budget Committee Republican staff, Spring 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #56: Support Bipartisan Solutions to the Entitlement Crisis

Promise: “We do need to come together on a bipartisan basis on entitlements.” – **Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), House Budget Committee Member; House Floor Remarks, March 28, 2007**

Broken Promise: House Democratic leaders have been silent on H.R. 473, legislation introduced by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) that would establish a bipartisan commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #57: Institute “PAYGO” To Control Spending

Promise: “Democrats are committed to fiscal responsibility through pay-as-you-go budgets, so that our children and grandchildren are not saddled with mountains of debt.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) [Website](#)**

Broken Promise: "In Washington ... congressional leaders have imposed 'pay-as-you-go' budget rules that exclude the existing entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, which dominate federal spending. So 'paygo' is really just political cover for new taxes to support new spending." – "Killing the Goose," *San Diego Union Tribune* Editorial, April 16, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #58: Adopt Honest Budgets

Promise: "[T]he new Democratic-led House takes America in a new direction—a fiscally responsible budget with the right priorities. Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt is a master of the budget, and he and his team have done an outstanding job reflecting the right American priorities and values." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, March 21, 2007**

Broken Promise: American families don't have the option of using gimmicks to put their family budgets in order. But such rules weren't applied by House Democrats in crafting their budget, which is loaded with trickery that hardly reflects "American priorities and values." "The House and Senate versions of the budget depend on 'reserve funds' to pay for additional spending...There's only one catch: The reserve funds are empty." – "Democrats Banking on Empty Reserves," *Los Angeles Times*, March 27, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #59: Balance the Budget

Promise: "Democrats will produce a budget that makes real progress toward balancing the budget, [and] makes wise choices. . ." – **Democratic Caucus Chairman Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) Press Release, February 5, 2007**

Broken Promise: "Before leaving town for spring break, [Democrats] passed a budget resolution that stands as a model of fiscal irresponsibility. How bad is the House budget? For starters it would surpass this year's record-breaking spending level by 9 percent – three times the expected rate of inflation." – "Prepare for Fiscal Irresponsibility," *Tallahassee Democrat* Editorial, April 16, 2007. The House Democratic budget assumes an *increase* in the national debt of \$850 billion. Democrats voted en masse against a GOP substitute budget that achieves balance by 2012 and ends the raid on Social Security without raising taxes.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #60: Change Washington's Spending Habits

Promise: "Democrats are committed to ending years of irresponsible budget policies that have produced historic deficits." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction for America](#),"** Page 25

Broken Promise: In six months time, Democrats have authorized \$828,330,870,000.00 in new federal spending. – **Source: RSC Money Monitor, June 22, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #61: Extend the Bush Tax Cuts

Promise: Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel (D-CA): "I'm not contemplating any increase in taxes. I'm not assuming they will expire." – "Republicans Start New Pastime: Reading Dems' Tea Leaves," *CongressDaily AM*, March 1, 2007

Broken Promise: "House Majority Leader Hoyer told reporters Tuesday that the budget plan would not assume all of President Bush's policies are extended." – **"Republicans Start New Pastime: Reading Dems' Tea Leaves,"** *CongressDaily AM*, March 1, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #62: Move Appropriations Bills Before July 4

Promise: "The House [will] have all 12 annual spending bills passed by the July fourth recess, in order to give the Senate enough time to take them on. . . Given the House Democrats' goal of having all 12 bills passed by July Fourth, it appears that the Defense appropriations bill will be the last train out of the station." – **"Forget About the Ongoing, Hostile Partisanship Over the \$125 Billion Supplemental Iraq War Spending Bill,"** *Roll Call*, May 1, 2007

Broken Promise: ". . . Democrats [have] scaled back their ambitious goal of passing 11 of the 12 fiscal 2008 spending bills by the July Fourth recess." – **"Earmark Dispute Puts a Dent in Democrats' Calendar on Spending Bill Work,"** *Congressional Quarterly*, June 15, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #63: Eliminate the Capital Gains Tax for Middle Class Families

Promise: "Eliminating the capital gains tax on the middle class ... will help make sure America is a country where work leads to wealth." – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 113**

Broken Promise: As of June 27, 2007, neither Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) nor any other House Democrat has introduced legislation to eliminate the capital gains tax for middle-class families.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #64: Enact Tax Reform With a Cap on Middle-Class Taxes

Promise: "We need tax reform that puts a cap on middle-class taxes ..." – ***The Plan*, Rahm Emanuel & Bruce Reed, Page 113**

Broken Promise: "The [Democrats' budget], set for a vote today, requires either that millions of middle-class families be hit with higher taxes next spring or that somebody else pay an extra \$50 billion." – **"Budget Plan Wipes Out Deficit But Leaves \$50 Billion Dilemma,"** *Washington Post*, March 29, 2007. Democratic leaders have not introduced or passed any type of tax reform legislation.

DEMOCRATS' PROMISES: TRANSPARENCY IN SPENDING TAXPAYER DOLLARS

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #65: "Get Rid of All" Earmarks

Promise: "Breaking with many Democrats, Ms. Pelosi also spoke out against earmarking billions of dollars for home-state projects, a practice she calls a 'monster' that hurts Congress. 'I'd get rid of all of them,' she says. 'None of them is worth the skepticism, the cynicism the public has . . . and the fiscal irresponsibility of it.'" – **"Pelosi Promises Fiscal Restraint If Democrats Win," *Wall Street Journal*, July 13, 2006**

Broken Promise: "Ranking Democrats vowed in December to put a moratorium on earmarks; instead, a record number infect legislation pending in Congress, with 32,000 requests this year, compared with about 13,000 in 2006 Ideally, congressional Democrats would keep their pledge to ban earmarks altogether." – **"Earmark Chicanery," *Press-Enterprise* (Riverside, CA) Editorial, June 20, 2007**

Broken Promise: "House Speaker Nancy Pelosi slipped in a \$25 million provision for San Francisco's waterfront on a \$15 billion federal water bill at the last minute. It's pork barrel spending, yes, but more than that. Republicans are crying foul because the federal cash for port improvements and the bill's provision for Pier 35 cruise ship dockage all benefit a toney area of San Francisco -- one where Pelosi's husband just happens to own real estate about a mile away." – ***Investor's Business Daily*, May 9, 2007**

Broken Promise: "In the bill funding EPA and Forest Service projects, Speaker Pelosi obtained \$700,000 for a grant for San Francisco for use in the Lower Mission District. . ." – **"House panel approves 'earmarks' for lawmakers' home districts, *Associated Press*, June 22, 2007**

Broken Promise: "This year, the House approved a \$504 billion defense authorization bill. Among the requesters, Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has one earmark in the bill, for \$10 million for Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, as part of the military construction portion of the defense budget." – **"\$8B of Pork: Dems Take 60 Percent," *The Hill*, May 22, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #66: Subject Earmarks to Public Scrutiny

Promise: "Put an end to secret earmarks..." – **Letter to Majority Leader Boehner (R-OH) from Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Democratic Caucus Chairman James Clyburn (D-SC), and Democratic Caucus Vice-Chairman John Larson (D-CT), February 9, 2006**

Promise: "Pelosi and Reid are making the loudest calls for an end to basically anonymous earmarks that, late in the process, are quietly attached to legitimate legislation and then approved by legislators who are unaware of the earmarks and their intent." – **"Democrats Must Make Good on their Vows to Ensure Transparency in Earmarks," *Columbus Dispatch* Editorial, November 20, 2006**

Promise: "We will bring transparency and openness to the budget process and to the use of earmarks, and we will give the American people the leadership they deserve." – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, December 12, 2006**

Broken Promise: "When Democrats took control of Congress four months back, incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., bragged it would take her party less than 100 hours to curb wasteful pork spending by requiring members to attach their names to their 'earmarks,' exposing such waste to the harsh light of public scrutiny. She failed to mention this 'reform' would remain in effect for little more than 100 days." – **"Democratic Earmark Reforms Lasted 100 Days," *Las Vegas Review Journal* Editorial, June 5, 2007**

Broken Promise: "The new game that House Appropriations Chairman David Obey intends to play with budget earmarks this year is worse than the usual hide-and-seek. He is taking the whole thing underground, as though he is to be trusted as a one-man auditor for congressional pork. If this is to be the new ethic that Democrats promised, voters might want their ballots back." – **"Pet Projects Pushed Out of Public Eye," *St. Petersburg Times* Editorial, June 5, 2007)**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #67: Ensure Members Have No Financial Interest in Earmarks They Sponsor

Promise: "Another key Democratic reform requires House members seeking earmarks to certify that neither they nor their spouses have any financial interest in the project." – **"In the Democratic Congress, Pork Still Gets Served," *Washington Post*, May 24, 2007**

Broken Promise: "[Pelosi] requested \$25 million for a project to improve the waterfront in her home district of San Francisco. Her request did not note that her family owns interests in four buildings near the proposed Pier 35 project." – **"In the Democratic Congress, Pork Still Gets Served," *Washington Post*, May 24, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #68: Allow Lawmakers to Challenge Individual Earmarks

Promise: "I think, first of all, with any bill, any provision, whether it is an earmark or not, there should be transparency. So that's what we have said – and I hope you would agree – that before Members vote on a bill there should be appropriate time for people to be able to read it, that it would be a matter of public record, and if there is an earmark that can stand the scrutiny, then that transparency will give the opportunity for it to be there." – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Conference, March 16, 2006**

Broken Promise: "Rather than including specific pet projects, grants and contract in legislation as it is being written, Democrats are following an order by House Appropriations Committee Chairman to keep the bills free of such earmarks until it is too late for critics to effectively challenge them. – **"House Democrats Sidestep Their Own Rule to Shield Lawmakers' Pet Projects From Scrutiny," *Associated Press*, June 3, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #69: Pass an Earmark-Free Continuing Resolution

Promise: "This is an earmark-free bill,' says Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D) of Illinois, who chairs the Democratic Caucus." – **"The House and Senate Struck a Deal on Spending Bills Wednesday in a First Test of Reining in Deficits," *The Christian Science Monitor*, February 2, 2007**

Broken Promise: Emanuel and other Democratic leaders brought a massive spending bill (“continuing resolution”) to the floor during the opening weeks of the 110th Congress, and claimed it was earmark-free -- but the bill actually contained hundreds of millions of dollars worth of hidden earmarks. “. . . [The Democrats’] claim of ‘earmark’ purity doesn’t stand up to scrutiny. . . The ‘no earmarks’ loophole was big enough to allow a convoy of earmarks into the final bill, including \$185 million for agriculture research projects and \$50 million to build an experimental rain forest in Iowa.” – **“Democrats’ No Earmark Pledge ‘Doesn’t Stand Up to Scrutiny,’”** *Opinion Journal’s Political Diary*, February 2, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #70: Apply Earmark Reforms to Earmarks in Tax and Authorizing Bills

Promise: “You can’t just have earmarks viewed on the appropriations bill unless you take up earmarks in tax bills and earmarks in authorization bills... But if you are going to have earmarks and you are going to have transparency, you have to do it in the appropriations bill and in the tax bill and in the authorization bill. I would put it in writing.” – **Then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Conference, September 7, 2006**

Broken Promise: “Republican leaders noted the deal only covers appropriations bills and pledged to continue to fight for more transparency in the authorization process. Minority Whip Blunt said there was absolutely no reason not to extend the proposal to authorization and tax bills.” – **“House Dems, GOP Still Struggling to Cement Earmark Deal,”** *CongressDaily PM*, June 14, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #71: Hold Members Accountable

Promise: “[W]e will help bring back fiscal responsibility by holding members accountable for their earmarks ...” – **Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Press Release, January 3, 2007**

Broken Promise: “[W]e were unable to vet properly and certify properly the 32,000 requests. But we had to move ahead with the appropriations bill.” – **Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Interview on *CNN’s American Morning*, June 13, 2007.** Instead of holding members accountable for their earmarks, House Democratic leaders attempted to move appropriations bills that included slush funds for secret earmarks – earmarks that would be “airdropped” into House-Senate appropriations conference reports at the last minute, eliminating virtually all member accountability for those earmarks.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #72: Provide Notice of Earmark Requests

Promise: “A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who requests a congressional earmark, a limited tax benefit, or a limited tariff benefit in any bill or joint resolution (or an accompanying report) or in any conference report on a bill or joint resolution (or an accompanying joint statement of managers) shall provide a written statement to the chairman and ranking minority member of the committee of jurisdiction...” – **Democrats’ House Rules Package**, Clause 17 of Rule 23

Broken Promise: “Murtha addressed the letter only to Intelligence Committee Chairman Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), not Rep. Pete Hoekstra (R-MI), the panel’s ranking member. Hoekstra has said he was not given a copy – an apparent violation of House rules. All earmarks must be

disclosed in writing to both the chairman and ranking member.” – **“Murtha Sent Earmark Letter Five Weeks After Deadline,” *The Hill*, May 22, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #73: Outlaw Use of Earmarks to Buy Votes

Promise: “The package produced by Obey, Barney Frank (D-MA), David Price (D-NC), and Tom Allen (D-ME)...is designed to...outlaw the use of earmarks to buy votes...” – **Press Release from the Kansas Democratic Party, January 10, 2006**

Broken Promise: On *NBC’s Meet the Press*, host Tim Russert asked several questions of Ways & Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel (D-NY) on Democratic leaders buying votes to win passage of their “slow-bleed” scheme:

RUSSERT: “But in that bill was \$20 billion of so-called pork, money for cricket infestation, tours of the Capitol, security at the National Convention, peanut crops. Why would the Democrats put that kind of money in such a serious bill?”

RANGEL: “Because they needed the votes. That bill, we lost so many Democrats, one, because people thought we went too far and others because we didn’t go far enough. And so a lot of things had to go into a bill that certainly those of us who respect great legislation did not want in there.” – ***NBC’s Meet the Press*, April 1, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #74: Scrutinize Every Spending Request

Promise: “[Democrats] are committed to auditing the books and subjecting every facet of federal spending to tough budget discipline and accountability, forcing the new Congress to choose a new direction and the right priorities for all Americans.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 25**

Broken Promise: Instead of spending time during the opening months of the 110th Congress subjecting appropriations bills to unprecedented scrutiny, Democratic appropriators spent four months attempting to pass a supplemental appropriations bill they knew would be vetoed. Then when it came time to move forward with the 12 standard appropriations bills, Democrats created slush funds for secret earmarks, claiming they didn’t have the time to review every earmark request. “Obey has defended his policy as a practical necessity. He said his staff cannot address each of the more than 30,000 earmark requests members have already filed in time to finish work by the Fourth of July recess.” – **“Dems, GOP Near Deal to End Spending Fight,” *The Politico*, June 13, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #75: Require Members to Disclose Earmark Requests

Promise: “Upon taking control of Congress in November’s midterm elections, Democrats vowed...to require lawmakers to disclose their requests and to certify that money they are requesting does not benefit them.” – **“In the Democratic Congress, Pork Still Gets Served,” *Washington Post*, May 24, 2007**

Broken Promise: The new majority has made no move to require their members to disclose their earmark requests. And while Rep. Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) called on some members to make public all their requests, he pointedly refused to call on Speaker Nancy

Pelosi (D-CA) to do so, and she has not. As the *Washington Post* reported: "The new majority is already skirting its own reforms." – **"In the Democratic Congress, Pork Still Gets Served,"** *Washington Post*, May 24, 2007

DEMOCRATS' PROMISES: MOST OPEN, HONEST & ETHICAL CONGRESS IN HISTORY

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #76: We'll Be More Honest, Open, and Ethical Than Republicans Were

Promise: "This leadership team will create the most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history" – **Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, November 16, 2006**

Broken Promise: "Pelosi and other Democrats were on shaky ground with their continuing claims that they are running the House with what she termed 'great openness and transparency.' ...[B]efore Democrats stake their claims for charting a 'new direction,' they should deliver on some of their earlier rhetorical boasts." – **"Majority Ruling," CongressDaily PM, March 30, 2007**

Broken Promise: "It's a familiar backpedaling pattern emerging early in the new Democratic-controlled Congress. From lobbying reforms to anti-corruption proposals to curbing earmarks, Democratic lawmakers who railed against Republican corruption a year ago have flinched from imposing the harshest standards on themselves." – **"Congress' Reform Promises Fizzle," The Politico, May 21, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #77: Promptly Name Members to the Ethics Pool

Promise: "At the beginning of a Congress, the Speaker or his designee and the Minority Leader or his designee each shall name 10 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner from his respective party who are not members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of that committee during that Congress." – **Democrats' House Rules Package, Clause 5 of rule 10**

Broken Promise: "Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has yet to name for this Congress the Democrats' 10 member 'ethics pool' – the group of Members preselected by their respective party leaders to serve on investigative subcommittees as they are needed." – **"No Sign of Life in Jefferson Ethics Probe," Roll Call, May 24, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #78: No Swapping of Earmarks for Votes

Promise: "A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may not condition the inclusion of language to provide funding for a congressional earmark, a limited tax benefit, or a limited tariff benefit in any bill or joint resolution (or an accompanying report) or in any conference report on a bill or joint resolution (including an accompanying joining explanatory statement of managers) on any vote cast by another Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner." – **Democrats' House Rules Package, Clause 16 of Rule 23**

Promise: "These strong [ethics] rules are significant steps toward honest leadership; enforcing these rules is critical to ensuring every Member of Congress lives up to the highest ethical standard." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, January 31, 2007**

Broken Promise: “But Murtha went over to the Republican side of the aisle and told Rogers that he would never, ever get another earmark in the Defense Appropriations bill. This was a direct violation of rules Democrats sponsored and promoted.” – **“Names in the News Can Be Divided Into Heroes and Villains,” *Roll Call* Column by Norman Ornstein, May 22, 2007.** 218 Democrats voted to excuse Rep. Murtha’s ethics violation and shield him from an official House reprimand. – [Roll Call Vote #402 on H.Res. 428](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #79: “Drain the Swamp”

Promise: “In an election in which exit polls identified corruption as the No. 1 voting issue and Washington’s biggest corruption scandal involved lobbying, Democrats won in part by promising to curtail K Street’s excesses. Pelosi has said her first act as Speaker of the House in January will be to pass new rules limiting contact between lobbyists and lawmakers.” – **“When the Democrats Take Back K Street,” *Time*, December 4, 2006**

Broken Promise: “Now that they are running things, many Democrats want to keep the big campaign donations and lavish parties that lobbyists put together for them. They’re also having second thoughts about having to wait an extra year before they can become high-paid lobbyists themselves should they retire or be defeated at the polls.” – **“Lobbying Reform Losing Steam in House,” *Associated Press*, May 11, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #80: Promote High Ethical Standards

Promise: “Democrats will exercise better leadership in the new Congress and work to raise the standard of ethics in this body.” – **Majority Whip-Elect James Clyburn (D-SC), Press Release, December 8, 2006**

Broken Promise: Majority Whip Clyburn voted “NO” on H.Res. 452, a resolution to force ethics committee action on Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA) after his indictment on charges that include racketeering, money laundering, and obstruction of justice. – [Roll call vote #430 on H.Res. 452 on June 5, 2007](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #81: Restore Integrity to the House Ethics Committee

Promise: On naming Rep. Michael Doyle (D-PA) to the House Ethics Committee: “With [his] commitment to the highest ethical standard, [Rep. Doyle] will serve with integrity, building on our bipartisan efforts to restore accountability, honesty, and openness to the House of Representatives.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Release, February 8, 2007**

Broken Promise: A short time after being named by Speaker Pelosi to serve on the House Ethics Committee, Rep. Doyle voted to shield Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) from an official House reprimand after Murtha violated House rules. Other Ethics Committee members voted “present” to ensure their impartiality should the Committee officially investigate the matter. – **[Roll Call Vote #402 on H.Res. 428.](#)** Speaker Pelosi also appointed Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN) to the House “ethics pool” concerning the Ethics Committee’s investigation into alleged crimes by Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA), despite the fact that Rep. Ellison voted against allowing the Ethics Committee’s investigation of Rep. Jefferson to resume. – [Roll call vote #430 on H.Res. 452 on June 5, 2007](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #82: Close the Revolving Door

Promise: "Close the revolving door between the Congress and lobbying firms by doubling (from one year to two) the cooling-off period during which lawmakers, senior Congressional staff, and Executive Branch officials are prohibited from lobbying their former offices." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction For America](#)," Page 22**

Broken Promise: "The House Judiciary Committee yesterday stripped from the lobbying reform bill a proposal to limit the lobbying activity of congressional officials once they enter the private sector and soundly defeated two other top priorities of government watchdog groups. Several of the reforms Democrats voted to kill were part of the 2006 Honest Leadership and Open Government Act that Democrats made a centerpiece of their campaign message last year." – "**Panel Softens Lobbying Bill Provisions," *The Hill*, May 17, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #83: Sever Links Between Lobbyists & Legislation

Promise: "That's why we need a new direction here. That's why we must sever the link between lobbyists and legislation so that we're here for the people's interests, not the special interests." – **Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Press Conference, September 29, 2006**

Promise: "We are committed to immediate change to lead this country in a new direction, to put an end to business as usual, and to make certain this nation's leaders serve the people's interests, not special interests." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction for America](#)," Page 21**

Broken Promise: "[Passage of the card check bill] is clearly a payoff for big labor's help in the election." – "**Don't Take Secret Ballots Away From Workers," *Detroit News* Editorial, December 26, 2006**

Broken Promise: "The minimum wage bill at the top of the Democrats' agenda was, in the words of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, simply 'a matter of doing what's right, what's just and what's fair' – what's right, just and fair, that is, as long as employees affected don't work for a company in Pelosi's congressional district. The minimum wage bill passed by the House last week curiously exempts American Samoa, where thousands of people are employed in a packing plant owned by Del Monte Corp., parent of StarKist Tuna. Del Monte just happens to be headquartered in Pelosi's San Francisco." – "**Blundered Hours," *Investor's Business Daily* Editorial, January 16, 2007.**

DEMOCRATS' PROMISES: OPEN, FAIR & BIPARTISAN OPERATION OF HOUSE FLOOR

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #84: Protect Minority Party Rights

Promise: On the introduction of then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's "Minority Bill of Rights" in June 2004: "Pelosi's document, which she vows to honor if Democrats regain the majority, says: 'Too often, incivility and the heavy hand of the majority' have silenced Democrats and choked off 'thoughtful debate.' She called on the majority to let the minority offer meaningful amendments and substitutes to important bills." – **"Pelosi Seeks House Minority 'Bill of Rights,'" *Washington Post*, June 24, 2004**

Broken Promise: "As the decision to dump the promise of an open process to muscle through the first 100 hours agenda shows, it's a lot easier to vow fairness to the oppressed minority when you are it." – **"Hard Work Begins Now for Democrats," *Washington Post* Column by Ruth Marcus, January 20, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #85: Allow Open, Full & Fair Debate

Promise: "Bills should generally come to the floor under a procedure that allows open, full, and fair debate consisting of a full amendment process that grants the Minority the right to offer its alternatives, including a substitute." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction For America](#)," Page 24**

Broken Promise: "Democrats are wielding a heavy hand on the House Rules Committee, committing many of the procedural sins for which they condemned Republicans during their 12 years in power. So far this year, Democrats have frequently prevented Republicans from offering amendments, limited debate in the committee and, just last week, maneuvered around chamber rules to protect a \$23 million project for Rep. John P. Murtha (D-Pa.)." – **"Dems Bend Rules, Break Pledge," *The Politico*, May 17, 2007**

Broken Promise: "But instead of allowing Republicans to fully participate in deliberations, as promised after the Democratic victory in the Nov. 7 midterm elections, Democrats now say they will use House rules to prevent the opposition from offering alternative measures, assuring speedy passage of the bills and allowing their party to trumpet early victories." – **"Democrats to Start Without GOP Input," *Washington Post*, January 2, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #86: Give the Opposition a Voice

Promise: "'We intend to have a Rules Committee ... that gives opposition voices and alternative proposals the ability to be heard and considered on the floor of the House,' he said." – **"Hoyer Says Dems' Plans Unruffled by Approps Logjam...," *CongressDaily PM*, December 5, 2006**

Broken Promise: "And this is one where we just don't want 1,000 amendments being offered on the floor no matter how good the ideas may be without careful consideration and scrutiny of every single one that gets proposed. And so I would very much ask that we have a very structured process in this." – **Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-CA), Rules Committee Hearing on H.R. 65, June 6, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #87: Promote Respect for Compromise

Promise: Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY): "I want us to work together." – "Bent Over the Rules," *National Journal*, June 16, 2007

Broken Promise: Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY): "Republicans are very unhappy in the minority. But sometimes there is a grade school mentality. I wish they would grow up. We are trying to address national problems. If they want to hang across my apron strings, I will drag them across." – "Bent Over the Rules," *National Journal*, June 16, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #88: Deliver an Open Legislative Process

Promise: "My fellow Democrats and I have long felt that the Rules Committee was failing in its major obligations. We publicly argued that it was being used to shut down the legislative process for partisan purposes and was refusing to promote serious ethical standards in the House. But now that Democrats will control the committee, we have a chance to change all that." – "NY Will Be Standing Higher on Hill," *Democrat & Chronicle* (Rochester, NY) Op-Ed by Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), November 12, 2006

Broken Promise: "...Democrats this year have brought a greater percentage of bills to the floor under a totally closed rule that prevents members of the minority from offering amendments..." – "Dems Bend Rules, Break Pledge," *The Politico*, May 17, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #89: Institute a Five-Day Work Week

Promise: "Next year, members of the House will be expected in the Capitol for votes each week by 6:30p.m. Monday and will finish their business about 2pm Friday," Hoyer said." – "Culture Shock on Capitol Hill: House to Work Five Days a Week," *Washington Post*, December 6, 2006

Broken Promise: Of the 21 weeks in session through June 22, 2007, only six have included full five-day work weeks. – Office of the Clerk [Web Site](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #90: Offer More Open Rules

Promise: "...the rule that we are considering today is open, and that means that any germane amendment offered by any Member, Democrat or Republican, can be debated and voted on by this body. It is the way a deliberative body should act. Now let me assure my friends on the other side of the aisle that this is not the only open rule that you will see in this Congress. This is the return of the House of Representatives as a deliberative body." – James P. McGovern, *Congressional Record*, Feb. 8, 2007, Page 1354

Broken Promise: As of June 22, 2007 the Rules Committee has yet to report another open rule, except for general appropriations bills. – Rules Committee [Web Site](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #91: Adhere to Limits on Voting Times

Promise: "Floor votes should be completed within 15 minutes. No vote shall be held open to manipulate the outcome." – Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction For America](#)," Page 24

Broken Promise: “Asked Wednesday night whether Democrats would keep the time limit [on the Iraq supplemental vote], Hoyer paused, then pointed out that many votes can run a few minutes longer for various reasons. ‘I won’t guarantee it,’ Hoyer replied.” – **“Hoyer Won’t Rule Out Extending War Vote,” *The Politico*, March 22, 2007.** But in fact Democrats have held open votes to change the outcome. On June 26, House Democratic leaders held open the vote on an amendment by Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO) to allow a Democrat to change his vote and secure the necessary votes for passage. – [Roll Call Vote #574, June 26, 2007](#)

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #92: Allow Committees to Work Their Will

Promise: “Bills should be developed following full hearings and open subcommittee markups, with appropriate referrals to other committees.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 24**

Broken Promise: The following bills moved to the floor without ANY committee consideration at all:

- **H.R. 1** – Implementing 9/11 recommendations [Rules Package]
- **H.R. 2** – Fair Minimum Wage Act [Rules Package]
- **H.R. 3** – Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act [Rules Package]
- **H.R. 4** – Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act [Rules Package]
- **H.Res. 35** – Intelligence Oversight Authority [Rules Package]
- **H.Con.Res. 63** – Disapproving of the President’s decision to deploy more troops to Iraq
- **H.R. 1905** – D.C. House Voting Rights Act
- **H.R. 1906** – Estimated Tax Safe Harbor Act
- **H.R. 2237** – Redeployment of Troops from Iraq
- **H.R. 2206** – U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Care, Katrina Recovery, & Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act
- **H.R. 2207** – Agriculture Disaster Assistance & Western States Emergency Unfinished Business Appropriations Act
- **S. Amendment to H.R. 2206** – U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans’ Care, Katrina Recovery, & Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #93: Allow 24 Hours to Review Bills

Promise: “Members should have at least 24 hours to examine bill and conference report text prior to floor consideration.” – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s (D-CA) “[A New Direction for America](#),” Page 24**

Broken Promise: The following bills moved to the floor with less than 24 hours notice:

- **H.R. 1** – Implementing 9/11 recommendations [Rules Package]
- **H.R. 2** – Fair Minimum Wage Act [Rules Package]
- **H.R. 3** – Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act [Rules Package]
- **H.R. 4** – Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act [Rules Package]
- **H.Res. 35** – Intelligence Oversight Authority [Rules Package]
- **H Res. 296** – Supporting the goals and ideal of National Eosiniophil Awareness Week
- **H.Con.Res. 63** – Disapproving of the President’s decision to deploy more troops to Iraq
- **H.R. 1905** – D.C. House Voting Rights Act

- **H.R. 1906** – Estimated Tax Safe Harbor Act
- **H.R. 2237** – Redeployment of troops from Iraq
- **H.R. 2206** – U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, & Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act
- **H.R. 2207** – Agriculture Disaster Assistance & Western States Emergency Unfinished Business Appropriations Act
- **H.R. 2560** – Human Cloning Prohibition Act

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #94: Report Rules Before 10p.m.

Promise: "Rules governing floor debate must be reported before 10p.m. for a bill to be considered the following day." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction for America](#)," Page 24**

Broken Promise: Rules for the following bills were reported AFTER 10p.m. and considered on the floor the following day:

- **H.Con.Res. 63** – Disapproving of President's decision to deploy more troops to Iraq – rule reported February 12, 2007, at 10:40p.m.
- **H.R. 1591** – U.S. Troops Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act - rule reported Thursday, March 22, 2007, at 12:30a.m.
- **H.R. 1433** – District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007 – rule reported Thursday, March 22, 2007, at 12:30a.m.
- **H.R. 2082** – Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2008 – rule reported Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at 10:50p.m.
- **H.R. 2237** – Redeployment of troops from Iraq – rule reported May 9, 2007, at 10:50p.m.
- **H.R. 2206** – Troop Readiness, Iraq Appropriations – rule reported May 9, 2007, at 10:50p.m.
- **H.R. 2207** – Agricultural Disaster Assistance Appropriations 2007 – rule reported Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at 10:50p.m.
- **H.R. 2206** – Iraq Supplemental – rule reported on legislative day of May 23, 2007, Thursday, May 24, 2007, at 7:45a.m.

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #95: Allow Committees to Provide Full Input

Promise: "Pelosi and Hoyer pledged they will allow committees to do their work and be more open about allowing Republicans to offer amendments on the floor." – **"Pelosi Leads Dems to Early Victories," *San Francisco Chronicle*, January 19, 2007**

Broken Promise: "The contrast between old and new is less evident in the way Congress goes about its lawmaking. In the first three months of the new Congress, the House frequently circumvented committees and adopted closed rules preventing floor amendments. Procedural shortcuts often limited the minority party's participation in the deliberative process." – **"Is Congress on the Mend?" *New York Times*, April 28, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #96: Allow the GOP to Offer Amendments

Promise: "'The principle of civility and respect for minority participation in this House is something we promised the American people,' [Speaker-Elect Nancy Pelosi] said. 'It's the right thing to do.' Pelosi pledged to restore 'minority rights' – including the right of

Republicans to offer amendments to bills on the floor..." – **"Pelosi's All Smiles Through a Rough House Transition," *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 21, 2007**

Broken Promise: "It would be laughable if it weren't so sad. House Democrats, having chafed and screamed for years about being frozen out of decision making by Republicans, are starting out their rule by ... freezing out Republicans." – **"The Wrong Start," *Roll Call Editorial*, January 4, 2007**

Broken Promise: "Now that Republicans have shown they can use new House rules against the new Democratic majority that wrote them, the Democrats want new rules. Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer said Tuesday that during the upcoming two-week recess he will craft changes in the pay-as-you-go spending rules adopted in January (H.Res. 6) so that the GOP can no longer blindside the majority ... 'We don't think that is appropriate,' Hoyer said. 'We don't think that serves the legislative process, and we're going to address that.'" – **"House Democrats Will Move to Curb GOP's Use of Motions to Recommit," *Congressional Quarterly*, April 10, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #97: Allow Amendments Representing All Viewpoints

Promise: "... things are different now, and under the Democratic administration here in the Congress, we are trying to make sure that all points of view have an opportunity to be heard on the floor." – **Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA), *Congressional Record*, June 6, 2007**

Broken Promise: "Democrats in the House of Representatives lost a chink in their good-government armor Friday, pressuring a fellow Democrat to drop an eco-friendly effort to restrict taxpayer-funded congressional car leases. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, a Missouri Democrat, had hoped to require House members to lease hybrids and other alternative-fuel vehicles if they wanted taxpayers to foot the bill. But other Democrats told Cleaver on Wednesday to withdraw his amendment, minutes before he was to present it to the Rules Committee — the first step in sending it to the House floor. 'We set ourselves up for looking ugly on this,' Cleaver said. 'Those are the things that happen when you rush on legislation and fail to have a dialogue.'" – **"Cleaver's Green Initiative Falls into Gray Area for Democrats," *Kansas City Star*, June 22, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #98: Treat Members Fairly and With Respect

Promise: "It is long past time that this House started living up to those ideas and practices; that they started putting honesty and integrity ... ahead of everything else." – **Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY), *Congressional Record*, January 4, 2007**

Broken Promise: Rules Committee Democrats, led by chairwomen Louise Slaughter (D-NY), refused to comply with the Committee's customary and longstanding practices in refusing to withdraw a proposed amendment from Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) on the delegate voting bill at his request and then refusing to provide a copy of Kirk's letter – a committee record – to the minority. As *The Hill* reports: "When the issue of the withdrawal of the amendment was being debated by the committee, the ranking member (David Dreier, R-Calif.) attempted to obtain a copy of the letter [asking to withdraw the amendment] ... and

the majority willfully refused to produce a copy of the letter after repeated requests." – **"Dust Up Over Delegate Voting," *The Hill*, January 25, 2007.** House Democrats condoned these practices in voting against a privileged resolution calling on the Rules Committee to prevent future occurrences. – [Roll Call Vote #54](#), January 24, 2007

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #99: Restore Democracy in the "People's House"

Promise: "Every person in America has a right to have his or her voice heard...Respectful of both the wishes of the Founders, and the expectations of the American people, we offer the following principles for restoring democracy in the "People's House," guaranteeing that the voices of all the people are heard." - **Speaker Nancy Pelosi's (D-CA) "[A New Direction for America](#)," Page 23**

Broken Promise: "The new Democratic House majority has an ambitious plan for its first 100 hours in power, from increasing the minimum wage to strengthening ethics rules to having the federal government negotiate prescription drug prices. Unfortunately, its plans don't include getting those provisions passed in the democratic fashion that the Democrats promised to adhere to once in the majority." – **"A Fairer House; But Not Quite Yet," *Washington Post* Editorial, January 3, 2007**

DEMOCRATIC PROMISE #100: Promote Bipartisan Cooperation

Promise: After President Bush gave his 2007 State of the Union Address outlining an ambitious new health care proposal, Speaker Pelosi and Senator Reid called on the two parties to work together in a bipartisan fashion: "Tonight, we welcomed President Bush's overtures of bipartisanship and we hope to begin working with him to move our country in a new direction." – **Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Press Release, January 23, 2007**

Broken Promise: On the morning after President Bush's State of the Union Address, the *Washington Post* reports on the reaction to his health care proposal among Democrats: "But the most surprising and encouraging development is that a President who for six years has only nibbled around the edges of health-care issues has weighed in with some bold ideas to expand coverage, rein in costs and bring some fairness to the tax code. Given that, you'd think Democrats would have welcomed a politically courageous proposal But instead, they've shifted reflexively into partisan attack mode, mischaracterizing the impacts of the proposal and shamelessly parroting the propaganda from the labor dinosaurs at the AFL-CIO." – **"Bipartisan Cooperation on Health Care is Dead on Arrival," *Washington Post* Column from Steven Pearlstein, January 24, 2007**

Whether it's the result of inaction or an inability to govern, **House Democrats haven't kept their promises to the American people**. On issue after issue, the 110th Congress has failed to meet the needs of working families, soldiers battling radical jihadists, senior citizens, and others who are waiting for Washington to offer serious solutions to the problems facing the country. One look at the polls shows Americans are taking notice and they aren't pleased.

But where the majority is failing to lead, **Republicans are stepping up**. While Democrats broke their promise to operate the House floor in an open, fair, and bipartisan manner, Republicans have found ways to strengthen and expose flaws in Democratic bills.

While Democrats broke their promise to lead the most open, honest and ethical Congress in history, Republicans are pushing for common sense ethics rules that hold lawmakers to a higher standard.

While Democrats broke their promise to deliver transparency in spending taxpayer dollars, Republicans have forced the majority to restore GOP earmark reforms that bring greater transparency and accountability to federal spending.

While Democrats broke their promise to enact legislation that makes America energy independent, Republicans believe we can lower gas prices and reduce our dependence on foreign energy by increasing domestic energy supplies, conserving more, and investing in the technologies of tomorrow.

While Democrats broke their promise to be fiscally responsible – increasing taxes and spending in tandem – Republicans put forth a plan that balances the federal budget without raising taxes.

And while Democrats broke their promise to make national & homeland security a priority, House Republicans have stood united to provide our troops the resources they need to defeat al Qaeda and radical jihadists, and are determined to secure our borders and enforce our immigration laws.

While Republicans are working to earn back the majority, Democrats are acting like the entrenched majority they led before -- saying one thing to Americans outside of Washington and doing something different inside the Capitol Building. Over the next few weeks, every House Democrat must answer this key question: **why haven't you kept your promises?**