

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE ACCOUNTABLE, TRANSPARENT

“Approval of the whole package would be a major boon for the writing of history and for government accountability.”
-New York Times regarding the 5 bills on the Floor this week [3/12/07]

FLOOR ACTION THIS WEEK CONTINUES TO RESTORE ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 2007** – Provides for more timely disclosure of government documents.
- **Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007** – Restores public access to presidential records by establishing procedures to ensure their timely release.
- **Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2007** – Requires the disclosure of donors to presidential libraries.
- **Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2007** – Strengthens protections for federal whistleblowers to prevent retaliation against those who report wrongdoing, waste, fraud, or abuse to authorities.
- **Accountability in Contracting Act** – Requires agencies to minimize the use of no-bid contracts, limit the length of no-bid contracts, and justify why they did not require full and open competition.

UNLIKE DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS FAILED TO PROVIDE STRONG OVERSIGHT OF THEIR PARTY’S WHITE HOUSE

In 1993-94, when both houses of Congress and the presidency were controlled by the Democrats, the House Government Operations Committee held **135** oversight or investigative hearings. In 2004-2005, under unified Republican government, the panel (renamed the Government Reform Committee) held just **37**. [Los Angeles Times, 9/3/06]

THIS CONGRESS IS WORKING HARD TO RESTORE ACCOUNTABILITY

Last November, the American people voted for a change in Washington. Democrats have kept their promise to make government more accountable and transparent:

- 106 Full committee oversight hearings in the House*
- 97 Full committee and subcommittee hearings on Iraq (House and Senate)*
- Stronger ethics rules
- Pay-as-you-go budget rules
- Increased accountability on earmarks

RECENT EVENTS DEMONSTRATE CLEAR NEED FOR OVERSIGHT

During their time in power, Congressional Republicans failed to hold government accountable. As a result, record deficits were allowed to pile up while Republicans looked the other way. Scandals unfolded with little – or no – Congressional oversight. Democrats have stopped this pattern by holding important hearings, and we will continue to do so:

- FBI Abuse of National Security Letters
- Firings of 8 U.S. Attorneys
- Hurricane Katrina
- Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terror
- Veterans – Walter Reed Army Medical Center scandal, poor conditions at VA Hospitals

**Includes hearings through March 9*