

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), Co-Chair

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN), Co-Chair

Survey: 95% of Hill Staff See Media Bias

06.26.2012

A landmark survey released today by George Washington University, that includes responses from nearly 3,000 congressional staff and Washington, D.C. lobbyists, provides valuable insight as to how people communicate with lawmakers in the U.S. Congress and their staff. In a joint effort by GW Professor David Rehr in the Graduate School of Political Management and the Original U.S. Congress Handbook, the study, "The Congressional Communications Report," provides a glimpse into the intersection of federal public policy and advocacy.

From the Politico's On Media Blog by Dylan Byers...

"Here's some reassuring news from a new George Washington University survey: Ninety-five percent of congressional staff members believe that political bias in the media influences or shapes decision-making in Congress. Seventy-five percent of Republican Hill staff believes there is 'a lot' of bias compared to 53 percent of Democratic staff. Forty-one percent of Democratic staff says there is 'some' bias compared with 24 percent of Republicans."

Media Not Fast or Furious in Scandal Coverage

From Breitbart /Big Journalism...

"The Big Three news networks-ABC, CBS, and NBC-covered the explosive Fast & Furious developments with sharply contrasting approaches....ABC World News started tonight with the absolute most important story of the day-a heat wave in the northeast!...The Fast & Furious scandal and President Obama's first-ever invocation of executive privilege received only the third-highest priority during ABC's broadcast... [The report] made no mention of the 300 Mexicans killed by F&F weapons or the fact that guns have been found at 12 crime scenes in America.

Though Fast & Furious was the lead story for [NBC] Nightly News, it was full of spin and jabs against Republicans. According to **Mr. Williams, 'Washington has blown up into a caustic partisan fight, and a showdown is coming over the power of the American president...'** Williams called Fast & Furious a 'badly botched sting operation...' [and] mentioned that for anyone 'not following the complexities of all of it, it just looks like more of our broken politics & vicious fights out in the open.'

The *New York Times* Editorial Board and their editor, Andrew Rosenthal, think the Operation Fast & Furious investigation is 'a pointless partisan fight.' **Their op-ed takes the position that one of the deadliest political scandals in American history has been blown out of proportion by Republicans in Congress, and their contempt vote was meant only to score political points against the Obama administration."**

The Media Never Sleeps, But It Does DREAM

From Newsbusters...

"NBC's Nightly News on Friday offered a one-sided segment touting Barack Obama's decision to lift the threat of deportation to young people who came to America illegally. The report featured six clips of individuals or groups thrilled by the reaction, only two against. It began by touting, 'Young people covered by the new policy cheered the announcement outside the White House.'

CNN interviewed eight guests who favored President Obama's new immigration policy, and only one guest who opposed it...The airtime for guests in favor totaled over twice as much as the time given to the one guest who opposed the policy. NPR [also] rushed out of the gate on Friday afternoon to defend President Obama's announcement to 'lift the shadow of deportation' from young illegal immigrants.

[A *New York Times* article] devoted precisely two of its 28 paragraphs to opposing views from 'angry' Republicans in Congress. The rest were devoted to Obama's announcement, joyful illegals, and their liberal supporters happy that immigrants could finally... 'come out of the shadows.'"