

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## *A Look at Media Bias*

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## Liberal Outlets Perpetuated ‘Birther’ Controversy

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The national media often claim that Fox News stoked the controversy surrounding President Obama’s birth certificate. **However, a study by the nonpartisan Project for Excellence in Journalism found that the opposite is true: Liberal news outlets CNN and MSNBC covered the “birther” story far more frequently than Fox News did.**

**During the week of April 11 through April 17, MSNBC devoted 23 times more airtime than Fox on the birther issue, while CNN devoted 12.5 times as much coverage, according to an analysis of the Pew study reported by the Media Research Center.**

This is just the latest example of the national media targeting Fox News, even though the nonpartisan Center for Media and Public Affairs found that Fox is more balanced than any other network. And polls show the public sees Fox as the fairest news outlet.

## CBS Gives Only One Side of Tax Issue

During a recent Sunday morning broadcast, CBS News gave a one-sided analysis of the U.S. tax system.

The report devoted significant coverage to those who think the wealthy don’t pay enough taxes. **However, CBS failed to point out that for the first time ever, the top 1% of earners now pay a larger share of the income tax burden than the bottom 95% of earners. They also neglected to mention that more than one-third of those who file an income tax return pay nothing or even get more back than they put in.**

CBS should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

## The Rest of the Worst in Media Bias

• **“President Obama, if you look closely at his positions, is a moderate Republican of the early 1990s. And the Republican Party he’s facing has abandoned many of its best ideas in its effort to oppose him.”**

— Washington Post business columnist Ezra Klein in an April 25 blog posting.

• **“In an odd way, the fact the Republicans and Congress are so poorly regarded, that the whole system is so poorly regarded, drags everybody down, including the President.”**

— Former Newsweek chief political correspondent Howard Fineman on MSNBC’s The Last Word, April 22.

• **“People love Medicare. And the only one the Tea Party people want to cut is Medicaid because it’s for poor people and minorities. That’s how they see it at least.”**

— MSNBC’s Chris Matthews on Hardball, April 21

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>  
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