

# MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

## A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), Co-Chair      Rep. Alex Mooney (R-WV), Co-Chair

2.09.16

## The Liberal National Media is not ‘Mainstream’

From Congressman Lamar Smith’s oped in the *Investor’s Business Daily*...

“[A] misnomer is calling the national media ‘mainstream.’ It is more accurate to use the term ‘liberal.’ According to a recent Gallup poll, 60 percent of Americans have little or no confidence in the national media to report the news fully, accurately and fairly. This is a record high. Gallup also found that Americans perceive more of a liberal bias in the media than a conservative bias by a two-to-one margin...

The media shouldn’t be considered ‘mainstream’ until they represent the views of most Americans. ‘Mainstream’ also implies a middle-of-the-road or moderate perspective. In any number of ways, the national media does not reflect the opinions of most Americans. For example, while Gallup consistently finds that just under half of Americans self-identify as either being or leaning Republican, a recent study (by journalism professors at Indiana University) found that only seven percent of journalists identify as Republicans. They also found that four times as many identified as Democrats...

The national media welcome the ‘mainstream’ moniker because they want to give the impression, which is false, that they represent most Americans. **We should not give them that satisfaction but call them what they are – the ‘liberal’ national media.”**

## Networks’ Most Ignored Stories of 2015

From *The Media Research Center*...

“[The Media Research Center reviewed all stories on the networks’ evening newscasts and found that the networks’ 2015 coverage was] light on Democratic scandals, ObamaCare’s failings, the out-of-control national debt, sanctuary cities and Planned Parenthood...[For example], the national debt surged to \$18.9 trillion in 2015, but none of the three broadcast networks seemed...bothered.”

### Most Ignored News Stories of 2015

Benghazi Scandal	46 minutes
ObamaCare	34 minutes
Clinton Foundation Scandal	27 minutes
Planned Parenthood Videos	25 minutes
Sanctuary Cities	8 minutes
\$18 Trillion National Debt	4 minutes
IRS Targeting Scandal	- zero -

Source: MRC, analysis of ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts, 1/1 - 12/31, 2015.

## Media’s One-Sided Coverage of Climate Change

From Congressman Lamar Smith...

“Americans are frustrated because they know that many of the ‘news stories’ they read are only opinion columns in disguise. **If the story does not fit the liberal worldview, then facts are ignored, dissent is silenced, and Americans are told what to think.** Perhaps one of the worst examples of biased reporting involves global warming. Those who reject the liberal viewpoint that climate change is the greatest threat to our country are ridiculed and ignored. For example, the Associated Press recently amended its stylebook to recommend that those who question the science behind global warming be called climate change ‘doubters’ instead of ‘skeptics.’ Some media outlets, such as the Los Angeles Times, no longer accept letters to the editor from those who question human-made climate change. Americans will continue to distrust the liberal national media until it provides objective coverage of the news. **Americans deserve all the facts about climate change, not just those that the national media wants to promote.”**

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