

# 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

4.19.16

## Obama Admin Least Transparent in History

From *Accuracy in Media...*

**“For all of President Obama’s assurances that his administration would be the most transparent in history, it has been anything but. Yet the mainstream media fail to cover, again and again, evidence of a corrupt administration hiding regulations from Congress and controlling the press... [T]he media bury information damaging to the Obama administration deep within their articles— if they publish it at all...**

[R]eporters acknowledge how far the administration has gone in stifling the free press. **‘This is the most closed, control-freak administration I’ve ever covered,’** said David Sanger of *The New York Times*... Not only is the Obama administration hiding regulations, it is also hiding data normally subject to Freedom of Information Act requests... Sterling Burnett, who is a research fellow for the Heartland Institute, argues that it is unsurprising that President Obama’s term has been marked by secrecy. He writes that over **250,000, or 39 percent, of FOIA requests were ‘either censored or denied.’”**

## Media Hides Illegal Immigrants’ Crimes

From *The American Thinker...*

“Dallas TV channel 11 posted the story of a man arrested for holding a woman hostage in an abandoned building in Farmers Branch, Texas: ‘A woman in Farmers Branch, fearing for her life, calls police for help. But the subsequent standoff with police turned into something very different... It took hours of searching before officers found 56-year-old Javier Alfredo Leal hiding in the attic... Leal has a prior police history of domestic violence.’

**When queried as to the suspect’s nationality, the reporter stated, that ‘I was moved to another story before getting to that angle...’ [A] subsequent request to the Farmers Branch Police Department concerning the suspect’s nationality yielded a response... [that] ‘indicates that Mr. Leal is a citizen of ‘MM,’ which is Mexico...’ So does this media coverage of a woman’s abduction further substantiate [the claim that the media frequently hide the truth of illegal immigrant crime from its news-consuming public audiences?]**”

## Media Attacks Religious Liberty

From *The Federalist...*

“[O]ne way the news media signal their disdain of religious liberty is by insinuating that the entire debate is bogus. **Editors do this by putting quotation marks around the term ‘religious freedom,’ as if this notion, when practiced by Christians, is somehow ambiguous or manipulative or deceptive.** Now, if those quotation marks exist because the topic itself is up for debate, then why isn’t there a similar journalistic standard for the usage of ‘inequality,’ ‘environmentalist,’ ‘civil rights,’ ‘investments,’ ‘loopholes’ or any of the hundreds of other similarly contentious or loaded words in our political discourse?... **If media covered religious liberty and took millions of Christians at their word rather than trying to bore into their souls to derive intent, the public would see a far more complicated issue.”**