

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

Americans Say Media Biased

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More than 7 in 10 Americans say that most news sources are biased, according to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center.

It's not just Republicans who see media bias; while 8 in 10 Republicans say the news is slanted, so too do two-thirds of Democrats and three-quarters of Independents.



This is the fifth poll in recent months that has found Americans don't trust the media. If the national media want to restore Americans' confidence, they should report the facts and not tell people what to think.

Media Defend Administration's Health Care Takeover

The national media have defended the Administration's health care bill against Republican criticism, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute (BMI).



In more than 30 news stories in the days after the health care plan was released, cable and network news programs defended the plan by saying it was merely an "opening bid" in the health care debate. They also consulted liberal politicians and outside Brookings Institution, The Nation and Huffington Post, and pushed Republicans to compromise and accept a bipartisan solution.

Furthermore, the media rarely explained specific economic concerns from conservatives, according to BMI.

Wash Post Forced to Apologize for Misrepresenting Facts

After President Obama scolded Republican Whip Eric Cantor for using a printout of the health care bill during last week's health care summit, *The Washington Post* followed suit by issuing similar criticism in a recent editorial. The *Post* was forced to print a correction on Saturday in which it apologized for a mischaracterization of the facts:

"In a Feb. 26 editorial, we said Rep. Eric Cantor (R-Va.) was 'posturing' during the Thursday health-care summit by stacking the voluminous Senate bill before him. Mr. Cantor says that he had the bill with him, well-tabbed, not for show but so that Republicans could respond if specific provisions of the bill came up for discussion. That makes sense, and we should not have characterized his purpose as we did."

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamarsmith.house.gov>
For more information please contact Dan Rosso at 202-225-4236 or dan.rosso@mail.house.gov*