

# 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

### **National Media Show Double Standard on Budget** 6/23/10



In 2006, the current House Majority Leader said enacting a budget was “**the most basic responsibility of governing.**” Now he says that the Democratic Majority will not pass a budget this year.

**The House has passed a budget every year since the Budget Act became law in 1974.**

If House Republicans had failed to pass – or even propose – a budget during an economic crisis such as this, it would be the lead story on every network news program and the lead editorial in every newspaper. **Instead, the national media have collectively yawned and have given the Democrats a free pass.**

The Democratic Majority doesn’t want to pass a budget because it will expose their run-away spending. Americans want Congress to pass a responsible budget that will get government spending under control and reduce the national debt.

### **Americans are Angry at the Media**

**Two-thirds of Americans say they are “angry” at the national media, according to a new Rasmussen public opinion poll.** The poll suggests that Americans are angry because of the national media’s clear liberal bias.

**By a margin of more than 3 to 1, Americans say the average reporter is more liberal than they are rather than more conservative. By almost the same margin, Americans think reporters are trying to help President Obama pass his agenda. Seven in 10 say most reporters try to help the candidate they want to win. And a majority think reporters would hide information that might hurt a candidate they wanted to win.**

Americans will continue to be angry until the national media report the facts and stop telling people what to think.

### **Media Show Double Standard on Prosecution of Leaks**

**The national media strongly criticized former President George W. Bush for cracking down on leaks of classified information to the media. Now, as the Obama Administration intensifies efforts to prosecute media leaks, the national media are mostly silent.**

Even *The New York Times* noticed the double standard:

**“In 17 months in office, President Obama has already outdone every previous president in pursuing leak prosecutions. His administration has taken actions that might have provoked sharp political criticism for his predecessor, George W. Bush, who was often in public fights with the press.”**

The national media should give Americans the facts, not practice a double standard.

*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](mailto:dan.rosso@mail.house.gov)*