

Altmire Hails Signing of Landmark Lobbying and Ethics Legislation

(Aliquippa, PA) - Today, U.S. Representative Jason Altmire (PA-4) hailed the enactment of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act (S. 1). After strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate, the president signed the landmark reform measure into law at a ceremony earlier today. This tough, bipartisan legislation is the most comprehensive ethics reform legislation in decades.

"The American people put their faith in this Congress to clean up the way that business is done in Washington," said Congressman Altmire. "With this new law, we are keeping our promise to the American people by ending the culture of corruption that has plagued this institution for too long. This law will end the egregious abuses of the K-Street project, private jet travel, and lavish parties and will finally return lawmaking to the basic principle that government is accountable to its citizens, not to special interests."

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act:

- Enhances financial and campaign disclosure rules;
- Increases criminal and civil penalties for violating the Lobby Disclosure Act to \$200,000 and five years in prison;
- Ends the K-Street Project, thus prohibiting private entities from hiring and firing based on politics;
- Denies taxpayer-funded pension benefits to Members of Congress convicted of corruption while serving the American people;
- Establishes an online, searchable public database of Member travel and personal financial disclosure forms; and,
- Requires sitting Members of Congress to disclose job negotiations for post-Congressional employment and to recuse themselves for purposes of a conflict of interest.