

For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. --- U.S. Representative Nick J. Rahall (D-4th), has announced his support for House Joint Resolution 287, a measure to establish a new code of financial ethics for the House of Representatives.

"A crisis of confidence," Congressman Rahall observed, "has resulted from the American people questioning the quality of our political leaders, exposed for corruption in government."

"The governmental scandals of recent years have made people wary of the political system," Rahall went on to say. "To overcome this lack of confidence our political leaders will have to be more than ever--above reproach."

"The rules now being advanced in the House of Representatives, will help discipline Congress," Congressman Rahall said. "However, no code of conduct will eliminate corruption or the need for careful judgments by legislators and voters."

"If the people demand public officials of high moral integrity they will have a government responsive to their needs," Rahall stated.

Rahall also made mention of the survey conducted by Louis Harris, which showed a vast majority of the American people (87%), subscribe to the view that, "because they hold high offices of public trust, Congressman should be expected to maintain higher ethical standards than other people."

House Joint Resolution 287, contains the following provisions:

1. Requiring comprehensive financial disclosure statements.
2. Prohibiting the acceptance of gifts aggregating over \$100 per year.
3. Abolishing unofficial office accounts.
4. Placing further limitations on the use of the franking privilege.
5. Tightening regulations for travel expenses.
6. Placing limitations on outside earned income.

Congressman Rahall concluded, "I am confident that the House will approve this measure, because you can not campaign on the ethics issue without supporting it on the House floor."