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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Pledging not to assemble on or between the dates of November 2, 2010 and January 3, 2011, except in the case of an unforeseen, sudden emergency requiring immediate action from Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRICE of Georgia submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Pledging not to assemble on or between the dates of November 2, 2010 and January 3, 2011, except in the case of an unforeseen, sudden emergency requiring immediate action from Congress.

Whereas the 111th Congress has failed in its promise to be the most open Congress in history, but has instead lost the public's trust by engaging in unprecedented political procedures to advance a partisan agenda;

Whereas on January 18, 2006, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi stated in prepared remarks, "Democrats are leading the effort to turn the most closed, corrupt

Congress in history into the most open and honest Congress in history.”;

Whereas on November 7, 2006, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi stated, “The American people voted to restore integrity and honesty in Washington, D.C., and the Democrats intend to lead the most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history.”;

Whereas on November 16, 2006, incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi stated, “This leadership team will create the most honest, most open, and most ethical Congress in history.”;

Whereas on December 6, 2006, incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi stated, “We promised the American people that we would have the most honest and open Government and we will.”;

Whereas incoming Majority Whip Clyburn stated on December 8, 2006 that, “Democrats will exercise better leadership in the new Congress and work to raise the standard of ethics in this body”;

Whereas Speaker Pelosi spoke of individual Member’s ethics on January 31, 2007 when she stated, “These strong [ethics] rules are significant steps toward honest leadership; enforcing these rules is critical to ensuring every Member of Congress lives up to the highest ethical standard”;

Whereas on January 5, 2010, while at a press conference during the health care debate, Speaker Pelosi stated, “There has never been a more open process for any legislation”;

Whereas this statement was reiterated by the Speaker while at a press conference on February 26, 2010, when a re-

porter prefaced a question about Rangel by noting that Speaker Pelosi had promised to run the “most ethical and honest Congress in history” she interrupted him to say: “And we are.”;

Whereas more bills were considered under closed rules, 64 total, in the 110th Congress under Democrat control, than in the previous Congress, 49, under Republican control;

Whereas fewer bills were considered under open rules, 10 total, in the 110th Congress under Democrat control, than in the previous Congress, 22, under Republican control;

Whereas zero bills have been considered so far in the 111th Congress under an open rule;

Whereas 26 bills have been considered so far in the 111th Congress under a closed rule, under Democrat control;

Whereas this Congress is the highest spending Congress in United States history;

Whereas this Congress has presided over the two highest budget deficits in United States history at a time when the public debt is higher than at any other time in history;

Whereas this Congress began its mortgage of the Nation’s future with a “stimulus” package costing \$1.1 trillion that failed to lower unemployment, spur economic growth, or actually address the needs of struggling American business and families;

Whereas this Congress continued its free-flowing spending with an increase of \$72.4 billion in nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2009 to reach a total

spending level of \$1.01 trillion for the first time in United States history;

Whereas this Congress approved a budget resolution in 2009 that proposed the six largest nominal deficits in American history and included tax increases of \$423 billion during a period of sustained high unemployment;

Whereas this Congress disregarded the needs and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a national energy tax bill that would increase costs on nearly every aspect of American lives by up to \$3,000 per year, eliminate millions of jobs, reduce workers' income, and devastate economic growth;

Whereas this Congress disregarded the needs and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a massive Government takeover of health care that will force millions of Americans from their health insurance plans, increase premiums and costs for individuals and employers, raise taxes by \$569.2 billion, and fund abortions—at a cost of \$2.64 trillion over the first ten years of full implementation;

Whereas this Congress nationalized the student loan industry with a potential cost of 30,000 private sector jobs and \$50.1 billion over ten years;

Whereas this Congress passed the DISCLOSE Act in violation of the first amendment, hindering citizens associations' and corporations' free speech while leaving all unions exempt from many of the new requirements, in order to try and influence the outcome of 2010 elections;

Whereas in spite of House Budget Committee Chairman's 2006 statement that "if you can't budget, you can't govern", the Democrat leadership has failed to introduce a

budget resolution in 2010 as mandated by law, but instead self-executed a “deeming resolution” that increases nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2011 by \$30 billion to \$1.121 trillion, setting another new record for the highest level in United States history;

Whereas this Congress has failed Main Street through passage of a financial system takeover that fails to end the moral hazard of too-big-to-fail, does not address the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac behemoths, and creates numerous new boards, councils, and positions with unconstitutionally broad authorities that will interfere with the creation of wealth and jobs;

Whereas this Congress has wasted taxpayer funds on an unnecessary and unconstitutional auto industry bailout, a “cash for clunkers” program, a home remediation program (“cash for caulkers”), and countless other pork barrel projects while allowing the public debt to reach its highest level in United States history;

Whereas Democrats have recently insinuated that significant legislative matters would deliberately not be addressed during the 111th Congress until after the midterm elections in November 2010;

Whereas the New York Times reported on June 19, 2010 that, “For all the focus on the historic federal rescue of the banking industry, it is the government’s decision to seize Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in September 2008 that is likely to cost taxpayers the most money. ... Republicans want to sever ties with Fannie and Freddie once the crisis abates. The Obama administration and Congressional Democrats have insisted on postponing the argument until after the midterm elections.”;

Whereas the Washington Times reported on June 22, 2010 that House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer stated, “a budget, which sets out binding one-year targets and a multiyear plan, is useless this year because Congress has shunted key questions about deficits to the independent debt commission created by President Obama, which is due to report back at the end of this year.”;

Whereas the Hill reported on June 24, 2010 that Senator Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, suggested that Democrats “might attempt to move ‘card-check’ legislation this year, perhaps during a lame-duck session. ... ‘A lot of things can happen in a lame-duck session, too,’ he said in reference to EFCA.”;

Whereas the New York Times published an article on June 28, 2010 titled “Lame-Duck Session Emerges as Possibility for Climate Bill Conference” that declares “many expect the final energy or climate bill to be worked out during the lame-duck session between the November election and the start of the new Congress in January.”;

Whereas the Hill reported on July 1, 2010 that “Democratic leaders are likely to punt the task of renewing Bush-era tax cuts until after the election. Voters in November’s midterms will thus be left without a clear idea of their future tax rates when they go to the polls.”;

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported on July 13, 2010 that, “there have been signs in recent weeks that party leaders are planning an ambitious, lame-duck session to muscle through bills in December they don’t want to defend before November. Retiring or defeated members of Congress would then be able to vote for sweeping legislation without any fear of voter retaliation.”;

Whereas the Hill reported on July 27, 2010 that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said, at the recent Netroots Nation conference of liberal bloggers, in reference to Democrats' unfinished priorities, "We're going to have to have a lame duck session, so we're not giving up.";

Whereas the Hill reported in the same piece on July 27, 2010 that the lame duck session will include priorities such as "comprehensive immigration reform, climate change legislation and a whole host of other issues";

Whereas the Declaration of Independence notes that governments "[derive] their just powers from the consent of the governed";

Whereas the American people have expressed their loss of confidence through self-organized and self-funded taxpayer marches on Washington, at countless "tea party" events, at town halls and speeches, and with numerous letters, emails, and phone calls to their elected representatives;

Whereas a reconvening of Congress between the regularly scheduled Federal election in November and the start of the next session of Congress is known as a "lame-duck session of Congress";

Whereas the Democrat majority has all-but-announced plans to use any "lame-duck Congress" to advance currently unattainable, partisan policies that are widely unpopular with the American people or that further increase the national debt against the will of most Americans;

Whereas any such action would be a repudiation of the American people's expressed will and would not comport with the Democrats' public statements promising transparency and accountability; and

Whereas under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi and the Democrat majority, and largely due to the current trends of Government expansion and freedom retrenchment, the American people have lost confidence with their elected officials, and that faith must be restored: Now, therefore be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms the principle expressed in the
3 Declaration of Independence that governments “[de-
4 rive] their just powers from the consent of the gov-
5 erned”;

6 (2) recognizes the fundamental importance of
7 trust existing between the American people and their
8 elected officials;

9 (3) confirms that adhering to the will of the
10 people is imperative to upholding public trust;

11 (4) states that the American people deserve to
12 know where their current elected officials stand on
13 key legislative issues before Election Day;

14 (5) states that delaying controversial, unpopular
15 votes until after the election gives false impressions
16 to voters and deliberately hides the true intentions
17 of the majority, while denying voters the ability to
18 make fully informed choices on Election Day; and

19 (6) pledges not to assemble on or between the
20 dates of November 2, 2010 and January 3, 2011,

1 except in the case of an unforeseen, sudden emer-
2 gency requiring immediate action from Congress.