



January 18, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker, U.S House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader, U.S House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Majority Leader McCarthy,

The recent revelation of a Congressional “hush fund” that paid settlements to victims of sexual harassment by Members of Congress and their staffs is shocking, offensive and entirely unacceptable. At least nine public polls taken in November and December confirm that the American public is revulsed, not only by the acts of harassment themselves, but also by the practice of buying the victims’ silence by settlements paid for with taxpayers’ money and hidden from the public through non-disclosure agreements. Clearly, this practice must stop.

One effort to ensure that Congress addresses this issue effectively is H.R. 4494, the Congressional Accountability and Hush Fund Elimination Act, introduced by Rep. Ron DeSantis. It has already garnered nearly 100 cosponsors (74 Republicans and 25 Democrats). We urge you to take an active role in ensuring that it is given prompt attention and passage.

We understand that there may be other legislative proposals addressing the same concerns that will soon be introduced. Our purpose here is not to suggest that any one bill is the perfect solution, but rather to urge that deliberation by the Committee on House Administration be initiated promptly. Your encouragement as the top leaders in the House would ensure that this issue is given the kind of serious attention

Thank you for your consideration.

The Honorable Edwin Meese III
Former Attorney General
President Ronald Reagan

The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop
Chairman, Conservative Action Project
Former White House Advisor, President
Ronald Reagan

The Conservative Action Project (CAP), founded in 2008 by many conservative leaders with former Attorney General Edwin Meese III serving as the Founding Chairman. CAP is currently chaired by The Honorable Becky Norton Dunlop and is designed to facilitate conservative leaders working together on behalf of common goals. Participants include the CEOs of over 100 organizations representing all major elements of the conservative movement-economic, social and national security.

The Honorable Colin A. Hanna
President
Let Freedom Ring, Inc.

Alfred S. Regnery
Chairman
Law Enforcement Legal Defense Fund

Diana Banister
President and Partner
Shirley & Banister Public Affairs

Lisa B. Nelson
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President, Council for National Policy

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Chairman
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David Bozell
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The Honorable J. Kenneth Blackwell
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The Honorable Mike Spence
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Roxanne Phillips
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Anne Schlafly Cori

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