

Exposing Gottheimer's Lies

The Real Letter

The FAKE Letter

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

October 5, 2015

BY EMAIL: oce@mail.house.gov

Omar Ashmawy
Staff Director and Chief Counsel
Office of Congressional Ethics
1017 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Request for Investigation of 11 Members for Accepting
Campaign Contributions in Exchange for Official Action

Dear Mr. Ashmawy:

Campaign for Accountability ("CfA") respectfully requests that the Office of Congressional Ethics ("OCE") investigate whether the following 11 members of Congress violated House rules and criminal law by accepting campaign contributions from the payday lending industry shortly before or after taking official actions in support of the industry: Rep. Stephen Fincher (R-TN), Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ), Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL), Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Rep. Patrick McHenry (R-NC), Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX), Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX), Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH), and Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS).

A recent report, *Payday Loans Cheaper by the Dozen: How Twelve Members of Congress Were Showered with Campaign Cash by Payday Lenders Just Before and Soon After Taking Official Actions To Benefit The Industry*,¹ details the official actions each of these 11 members took in very close proximity to receiving campaign contributions from payday lending industry executives and industry political action committees ("PACs").² Those official actions included sponsoring and co-sponsoring legislation that would have impaired the ability of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB") to regulate the payday lending industry and eliminated critical consumer protections against harmful payday lending practices; legislation that would have prevented the Department of Justice ("DOJ") from taking steps through its "Operation Choke Point" program to prevent

¹ A copy of this report is available at <http://alliedprogress.org/cheaperbythedozen>.

² The report also details the actions of and campaign contributions to former Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) who, as a former member, is no longer subject to OCE's jurisdiction.

