

U.S. Rep. Gallagher: And Rep. Nolan Introduce the Go to Washington, Go to Work Act

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Prohibits Members of Congress from Fundraising While in Session

Washington, D.C. – Today Representatives Mike Gallagher (R-WI) and Rick Nolan (D-MN) introduced the Go to Washington, Go to Work Act of 2018. The bipartisan legislation prohibits members of Congress and congressional candidates from attending, speaking, and participating in political fundraising activities while Congress is in session. The bill aims to end the excessive amount of time members of Congress spend fundraising in Washington, D.C. for reelection, instead of working on behalf of their constituents.

Rep. Gallagher said, “Our nation was founded on the principle that government should be by the people and for the people, not government by and for special interests. Over the years, members of Congress have strayed from this founding principle by focusing on fundraising for their next election rather than doing the people’s work.” He continued, “As a result, our nation’s problems have grown worse, and people’s trust in government’s ability to fix them continues to shrink. The common sense reforms in this bill are critical to helping reduce the influence of money in politics and get Congress working again.”

Rep. Nolan said, “It’s time to change the way we do politics, and restore people’s confidence in our great American democracy. The massive amounts of money in politics and time being spent fundraising is denigrating members and candidates,

it's discouraging good people from running for public office, and it's distorting the truth. It has turned members of Congress into middle-level telemarketers dialing for dollars. As a result, this Congress is the most unaccomplished, undemocratic and unremarkable in our country's history. We are elected to do the people's business, to go to Washington and go to work on the people's business. That's what being a member of Congress should be all about."

The Go to Washington, Go to Work Act:

- Applies to both sitting members of Congress and candidates for congressional office. The bill does not apply to candidates for state, local or other elected office outside of Congress.
- Requires that candidates for Congress and sitting members of the House and Senate be subject to the prohibition only on days in which their respective bodies are in session. However, if a member of the House is a candidate for Senate office, the prohibition would apply also on any day the Senate is in session.
- Applies to any day the House or the Senate is in session – excluding 'Pro Forma' sessions. Days that are removed from the legislative calendar are not included. Days added to the legislative calendar are included.
- Participation of Members at a fundraising event on any day the House or the Senate is in session, including attending, speaking or being a featured guest would be prohibited. The previously enacted Campaign Reform Act, which prohibited Federal candidates from soliciting so-called "soft" money included a special rule that Members "may attend, speak or be a featured guest at a fundraising event" suggesting that Congress views these actions as another form of soliciting funds.
- If enacted, the prohibition would apply to elections occurring during 2019 or any succeeding year.

[**CLICK HERE**](#) for a video of Reps. Gallagher and Nolan discussing their new bill.