

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings

Statement in Support of Raskin Amendment SCRUB Act

February 14, 2017

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment offered by Mr. Raskin. Mr. Chairman, the unelected commission this bill would create would have broad authority to review and recommend regulations to be repealed.

Every rule is fair game – even rules to protect against conflicts of interest in the federal government. This amendment would exempt any rules that fall into that category.

One need only look to the events of last week to see just how important these regulations are to ensuring the separation of business and state. Last Friday, the President’s Counselor, Kellyanne Conway, appeared on national television from inside the White House Briefing Room, where she gave what could only be called an infomercial for the daughter of the President of the United States. She stated, and I quote, “I’m going to just give a free commercial here. Go buy it today everybody. You can find it online.”

In response to this textbook violation of good government ethics, Mr. Chairman, you and I wrote to the Director of the Office of Government Ethics and asked that he immediately review the matter and make a recommendation on the appropriate disciplinary action. I think all the Members here can agree that what Ms. Conway did was flagrant and wrong. It has no place in the government.

The Office of Government Ethics has a rule that prohibits the “use of public office for private gain.”

This amendment would ensure that this rule, and other ethics rules, stays off the chopping block. I think every member of this Committee should support this amendment.

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