

CREW Cuts

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CREW Files Complaint Against Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region (ANCA-WR) and the ANCA Endowment Fund

On February 18th, CREW filed a complaint against the Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region (ANCA-WR) and the ANCA Endowment Fund, urging an investigation into whether these organizations have failed to comply with federal tax laws, lobbying rules, and foreign registration laws.

CREW's complaint, filed with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Clerk of the House, and the Secretary of the Senate, includes the following violations:

◆ Tax Law Violations

As a 501(c)(3) organization, ANCA-WR is explicitly prohibited from making political endorsements. Nevertheless, ANCA posted endorsements of 15 U.S. Senate candidates and 211 U.S. House candidates on its shared website with ANCA-WR shortly before the 2008 federal elections.

◆ Lobbying Violations

ANCA has openly lobbied members of Congress despite failing to register with the House or Senate under the Lobbying Disclosure Act. While ANCA has legitimate interest in influencing U.S. policy surrounding the Armenian genocide debate and other policies such as those impacting Armenia's economic situation, the organization - like all others that lobby - must properly register.

◆ Foreign Registration Violations

ANCA operates in the U.S. as an arm of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, an Armenian political party. Despite this, ANCA has never registered with the DOJ under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. This act requires that all agents of foreign political parties to register and regularly report on their activities aimed at influencing U.S. policy.

[Learn more](#)

[Read CREW's complaint and exhibits](#)

[Read the McClatchy Newspapers article](#)

CREW Resists White House Push for Email Lawsuit Dismissal



On February 20th, CREW filed its opposition to a White House motion to dismiss CREW's lawsuit over the millions of emails that went missing from the Bush administration's White House servers. In September 2007, CREW sued the Executive Office of the President, the Office of Administration, the National Archives and Records Administration and the archivist over the White House's failure to recover the missing emails and install an effective electronic archiving system.

Shortly before the presidential transition, the Bush White House claimed it had found a portion of the missing emails and had taken steps to archive others. On January 21st, the Obama administration moved to dismiss the suit, arguing that because the defendants had taken some action, no matter how limited or incomplete, CREW's claims were moot.

CREW continues to pursue the matter because the public still does not know how many emails are missing, what caused this problem and if appropriate steps have been taken to fix it. While CREW is disappointed the new administration does not appear eager to resolve the matter, we will continue to fight to restore and preserve these vital historical records for the American people.

[Learn more](#)

[Read CREW's opposition](#)

[Read the Associated Press article](#)

CREW Calls on Senate to Expel Sen. Burris



On February 17th, CREW called on the Senate Ethics Committee to investigate Sen. Roland Burris (D-IL) and recommend his expulsion from the Senate if the committee finds he lied under oath about the circumstances surrounding his appointment to fill the Senate seat vacated by President Obama.

Sen. Burris recently admitted to talking with several people close to former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, including the governor's brother, about raising campaign funds for the governor while he was vying for the appointment to the Senate. Sen. Burris's recent statements contradict his previous assertions that he had never offered anything to Governor Blagojevich in return for the appointment.

The Senate Ethics Committee has initiated an investigation into whether Sen. Burris lied to obtain his Senate seat and Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) has recommended he resign, as have Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce William Daley, and the editorial boards of *The Washington Post* and *The Chicago Tribune*.

[Learn more](#)

[Read the Washington Post article](#)

CREW Files Ethics Complaint Against Sen. Sam Brownback for Misleading Fundraising Solicitation

On February 25th, CREW filed a complaint with the Senate Ethics Committee against Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS), after reviewing a fundraising letter sent by the senator on behalf of the non-profit group Catholic Advocate.

The letter urges "faithful citizens" to sign an anti-choice petition and make a financial contribution to the group. It also questions the faith of five Catholic senators and Speaker Nancy Pelosi claiming it is impossible to be both Catholic and pro-choice. The letterhead used was designed to closely resemble official Senate stationery, giving the false impression the letter was an official communication from Sen. Brownback. Senate ethics rules specifically bar members from using facsimiles of official letterhead for fundraising solicitations because it suggests such appeals are sanctioned by the Senate. CREW asked the Senate Ethics Committee to admonish Sen. Brownback for engaging in improper conduct that reflects upon the Senate.

[Learn more](#)

[Read CREW's complaint and Sen. Brownback's fundraising letter](#)

[Read the McClatchy Newspapers article](#)

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