



Hon. Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

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REP. MATSUI LAUDS REPEAL OF CHANGES TO HOUSE RULES

WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) made the following floor statement in support of H.Res. 240, Repeal Ethics Rules Changes, which would reinstate the ethics complaint process of previous congresses, rolling back the Republican Majority's unilateral changes this year to make it more difficult for an ethics complaint to move through the House ethics complaint process.

"I rise in support of this resolution to restore integrity to our ethics process, and reinstate the standards of previous Congresses; standards which regrettably this chamber chose to erode earlier this year. That action marked the first time in the history of the House of Representatives that our ethics rules were altered on a partisan basis.

"Our constituents deserve a Congress that holds itself to the highest standards. Many generations of our predecessors acknowledged the importance of this: by having the ethics committee be evenly divided between the parties, regardless of any electoral outcome; by working together in a bipartisan fashion; and by ensuring that neither party would be allowed to use partisanship and power as a shield against behavior that falls short of the standards our constituents expect and deserve.

"With its action earlier this year, this Congress fell short of this standard. The ethics process must operate on a bipartisan basis to ensure that it functions in an even handed and just fashion. And it must be prepared to act without regard to party in order for the people of this country to have any faith in it. Simply put, this chambers' ethics, and the standards to which we hold ourselves, must be put on a higher plane than any one political party.

"We should never have reached this point. But with today's long overdue action, it is my hope the House of Representatives will correct that error.

"I want to thank my distinguished colleague, the Ranking Member of the Ethics Committee, Mr. Mollohan of West Virginia, for his determined and tenacious leadership on this matter. If it were not for his leadership and the leadership of others, it would have been all too easy for this to be ignored and the American people would not be seeing this victory. Had we not altered course, we could have done irreparable, long-term damage to the institution that we all love. Instead, thanks to their efforts, we take much needed corrective action.

"I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed resolution, and yield back the balance of my time.

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