

1/22/2007 - Congressman Albio Sires Takes Another Step in Restoring the Public Trust

For Immediate Release

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January 23, 2007

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(Washington, D.C.) - Representative Albio Sires (NJ-13) voted today to deny congressional pension benefits to House members convicted of corruption. H.R. 476 ensures tax dollars do not fund the retirement of those who violate the law.

"Recent bribery scandals have eroded the confidence the American people place in their elected officials," said Congressman Albio Sires. "To pay convicted House members their full pensions after accepting bribes and committing perjury is a slap in the face of our constituents."

This bill is a component of ethics reform. It requires that Members convicted of certain federal felonies related to the performance of their official duties forfeit their congressional pension rights.

"House Members must know that they are not above the law. We must remain vigilant of corrupt politicians especially while they are the people's voices in Congress," said Sires. "As representatives, we must be held to a higher standard."