



December 16, 2025

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Campaign Legal Center (CLC), **I am writing today to urge you to sign [Discharge Petition No. 11](#) to advance the bipartisan *Restore Trust in Congress Act* ([H.R. 5106](#))**. CLC believes that members of Congress, their spouses, and dependents should be prohibited from buying, owning, or trading stocks while in office, and we strongly support this bill, which is crucial to updating the *Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act* (STOCK Act).

In September, the *Restore Trust in Congress Act* was introduced by Representatives Chip Roy and Seth Magaziner following months of negotiations by a bipartisan group of House members. This consensus bill strengthens existing rules on congressional stock trading to help address the public's longstanding concerns about the ethical accountability of their elected officials.

CLC supports the bipartisan *Restore Trust in Congress Act* because it will close existing loopholes by banning members of Congress from owning or trading stock while in office; extending this prohibition to the spouses and dependent children of these members; and establishing strong enforcement mechanisms to promote compliance.

In the absence of these important rules, the public has watched congressional stock trading proliferate. This has led to repeated examples of ethical violations and questionable financial activity by sitting lawmakers, including during the [2020 global health emergency](#) and the [period of economic uncertainty created by this year's tariff announcements](#).

More recently, CLC documented how lawmakers engaged in [nearly 200 trades during the 2025 government shutdown](#), representing anywhere from \$3 to \$9 million in financial assets. Although this trading was legal, it occurred as everyday Americans navigated the longest lapse of federal funding in history and shouldered consequences like missed paychecks and drained SNAP benefits. This dynamic sends a dangerous message that many elected officials are working to secure their financial interests first, and advance the public good second.

The STOCK Act was passed in 2012, and over a decade of experience has demonstrated that while this law provides greater transparency into the stock trading activities of Congressmembers, it has not done enough to reduce the appearance and actual corruption

that can arise when lawmakers buy and sell stocks. After decades of poor enforcement and allegations of insider trading, now is the time to update the STOCK Act.

Members of Congress regularly make policy decisions that impact the lives of all Americans, and in the course of their duties, they are often privy to information unknown to the broader public. This may not always shape each individual members' motivations, but as long as this trading is not fully banned, the public cannot be truly reassured of the motivation behind their representatives' decisions. The provisions in H.R. 5106 will restore public trust that members of Congress are working in the public's interest and not using their official position to improve their stock portfolios.

CLC strongly supports the Restore Trust in Congress Act and urges the Congressman to sign Discharge Petition No.11 and pass H.R. 5106.

Sincerely,

Eric Kashdan  
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Campaign Legal Center