

**Rep. Angie Craig's Gifts for Officials, Legislators and Delegates (GOLD) Standard Act**

*Original co-sponsors: Reps. Nancy Mace (R-SC), Eric Sorenson (D-IL) & Andy Kim (D-NJ)*

The Supreme Court's 2016 narrow definition of "official act" in *McDonnell v. United States* (2016) provided concerning legal cover for public officials accused of bribery, making the prosecution of public officials under the federal bribery statute extremely difficult in the years since.

But recent allegations of corruption and bribery – most notably New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez who was charged with accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars, including 13 gold bars, in exchange for political favors – among high-ranking public officials in the United States Government have revealed the urgent need to amend and expand the federal bribery statute.

For example, current federal law does not recognize the offering of advice to be considered an "official act." Therefore, a public official could not be charged under the federal bribery statute for receiving compensation for offering advice to a foreign party on a business transaction.

Public officials should be held to the highest ethical and legal standards – not be immune from them.

Rep. Craig's bipartisan ***GOLD Standard Act*** would expand the definition of "official act" considered under the federal bribery statute. Under this bipartisan legislation, any approval, disapproval, recommendation, rendering of advice or investigation on any question would be considered an "official act" made by a public official, and prosecutable under the federal bribery statute.

Federal law defines "public officials" as:

- Member of Congress, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner
- Any Federal employee, regardless of the branch of government involved
- Employees of the District of Columbia
- Federal Jurors
- Persons who are not Federal employees, but who have the power to allocate and expend Federal monies under grant programs

The ***GOLD Standard Act*** has been endorsed by Project on Government Oversight (POGO), Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), and End Citizens United (ECU).