

 CREW - citizens for responsibility and ethics in washington

## CREW Cuts

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### Federal Judge Declares White House Visitor Records Subject to the FOIA in CREW Lawsuit

On December 17th, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, in CREW's lawsuit seeking White House visitor records from the Secret Service, ruled that records of visitors to the White House and the Vice President's residence are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and therefore must be made public.



Judge Royce C. Lamberth rejected the Bush administration's arguments that the records were under the exclusive control of the White House and therefore not subject to the FOIA. In particular, Judge Lamberth rejected an agreement made between the Secret Service, which creates the visitor logs, and the White House, which was presented as evidence that the White House maintains control of the visitor logs. The judge called the agreement "self-serving" because it was executed after the Secret Service had been sued by CREW for the records.

The administration has filed an appeal and requested that the visitor logs be kept secret pending the decision from the appellate court. Judge Lamberth granted the administration's request, ruling that the visitor logs do not need to be released pending the appeal, on the condition that the administration agree to an expedited schedule for its appeal.

[Read more](#)

[Read the Associated Press story](#)

### CREW Sends Letters Informing State Insurance and Medicaid Leaders of Long-Term Care Industry Shill National Tour

On December 4th, CREW sent letters to two national organizations, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and the National Association of State Medicaid Directors, warning them about Stephen Moses and the Center for Long-Term Care Reform and his planned "National Long-Term Care Consciousness Tour." Moses has spent the past decade posing as an independent expert from a respected think tank that analyzes the need for long-term care insurance, but is in fact serving as a front for the long-term care insurance industry. According to his website, Mr. Moses has testified as an independent expert on long-term care before two-thirds of the nation's state legislatures and has been quoted in stories around the country.

Mr. Moses is not, however, actually independent. He actively solicits the insurance industry for contributions, stating "The long-term care insurance industry -- and LTC providers whose financial survival depends on the growth of private financing -- must take steps to encourage private sector solutions. The Center for Long-Term Financing is uniquely positioned to promote this effort." He also boasted, "the Center increases long-term care insurance sales remarkably."

By "improving long-term care public policy," Mr. Moses really means working to increase the number of people purchasing of long-term care insurance. Mr. Moses has blamed government funding of Medicaid for the fact that the long-term care insurance market is not expanding as rapidly as insurers would like.

[Read more](#)

[Read the response from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners](#)

### New CREW DHS Report Details Massive Failures and Billions Wasted - Upon Agency's Fifth Year Anniversary

On December 5th, CREW released a new report entitled *Homeland Security for Sale - DHS: Five Years of Mismanagement*, an accompanying website, [www.homelandsecurityforsale.org](http://www.homelandsecurityforsale.org) and a video created and produced by Brave New Foundation. The report and video document the past five years of the agency's most serious problems and troubling practices.

In its report, CREW details billions of dollars in waste and mismanagement of taxpayer dollars, for example:

- \$24 billion has been spent, and at least \$178 million wasted, on the failed Coast Guard Deepwater program;
- over \$600 million has been allocated for ineffective radiation detection portal monitors;
- \$1.3 billion has been wasted in a failed effort to create a system to track those who enter the U.S. and
- a projected \$2 billion loss on the SBI/net "virtual fence" border program.

[Read the report](#)

[Watch the CNN video on CREW's DHS report](#)

[Read the Huffington Post story](#)

### CREW Releases List of Top Ten Ethics Scandals of 2007

On December 17th, in light of another year rife with corruption, CREW released a new report on the Top Ten Ethics Scandals of 2007. It is available in its entirety at [www.citizensforethics.org](http://www.citizensforethics.org).

Highlights include millions of missing White House emails still unaccounted for and the political firings of U.S. Attorneys. Also on the list are congressional scandals such as Rep. Murtha's abuse of earmarks and the uneven treatment by the Senate of Sen. Larry Craig and Sen. David Vitter.

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