



OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS REGARDING THE OCE'S REFERRAL OF
REPRESENTATIVE SAM GRAVES TO THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT**

We regret that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (SOOC) mischaracterized the Office of Congressional Ethics' (OCE) August 6th referral of the matter involving Representative Sam Graves. The OCE Board did find substantial reason to believe that a substantive violation may have occurred. While the SOOC released a portion of the OCE referral, the complete disclosure as provided for in H. Res 895 will clearly demonstrate as much.

The information the SOOC suggests "may" be exculpatory was either in Representative Graves' possession directly or through his counsel, or was not pertinent. We respectfully note that documents in the referral to the SOOC make this clear. The OCE would never withhold exculpatory information from a subject of an investigation and did not in this instance.

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