MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Americans' Trust in Media Reaches New Low

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Americans' trust in the media has plummeted to an all-time low, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center.

According to Pew, only about a quarter of Americans say that news organizations are not politically biased. Less than one-third say the media generally get the facts straight. Less than one-in-five say that the media deal fairly with all sides of the story. And just 29 percent had a favorable opinion of the liberal New York Times – the lowest rating for any news organization in the Pew survey.

Americans have lost faith in the national media. Whether it's health care or other issues, it's up to the media to restore the public's trust by reporting the facts fairly.

Media's Health Care Polls Stacked with Democrats

Following President Obama's address to a joint session of Congress about health care, the national media have touted polls showing a bump in public approval of the President's health care plan.

But the media have failed to point out that the polls have vastly oversampled Democrats. For example, a CBS poll last week trumpeted "a 12-point improvement" in the President's approval rating on health care following his speech. **CBS failed to mention that Democrats outnumbered Republicans in the poll sample by 15 percentage points – far greater than the actual party identification gap.**

Furthermore, a CNN poll touted a "double-digit post-speech jump" for the President, even though the poll oversampled Democrats by more than a 2-to-1 margin.

In polls with far more Democrats than Republicans, it should come as no surprise that the results favor a liberal agenda. The media should level the playing field and report all the facts about their polling data.

Media Ignore President's Backtracking on Uninsured Stat

For months, the Obama Administration has claimed that there are 47 million uninsured people. President Obama made this claim during a recent press conference, despite criticism that the number is vastly inflated.

During his address to a join session of Congress last week, the President backed off this claim, saying that there are "more than 30 million" uninsured Americans.

Media criticism of the President's backtracking on this issue has been predictably scarce.

According to the Business and Media Institute, none of the television networks mentioned the President's flip-flop during their coverage of his speech.