

February 12, 2026

Dear Members of Congress,

We, the undersigned nonpartisan, good government organizations, urge members of Congress to **OPPOSE H.R. 7008, the so-called *Stop Insider Trading Act (SITA)***. This bill purports to address the problems associated with congressional stock trading, but in reality, it masquerades as a solution while doing little to actually stop members of Congress from profiting off their offices.

The American people no longer trust that Congress is working in the public interest.¹ This lack of trust undermines our democracy and delegitimizes the institution and government as a whole. When Members appear to use their offices to profit from personal investments, it only serves to further erode that trust.² The solution is simple, popular³ and bipartisan: Ban members of Congress from buying, selling, and owning stocks and their equivalents. No gaping loopholes. No misdirection.

Right now, there is a bipartisan bill that meets that criteria, which garnered a groundswell of support earlier this Congress. H.R. 5106/ S. 3649, the *Restore Trust in Congress Act*, is led by Representatives Chip Roy (R-TX-21) and Seth Magaziner (D-RI-2) in the House as well as Senators Ashley Moody (R-FL) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) in the Senate. **We urge members of Congress to return to this bipartisan solution to a bipartisan problem.**

SITA is a poor substitute for the bipartisan bill. **It does not** ban members of Congress from owning stock or making decisions that would affect the value of the stocks they hold. **It does not** prevent members of Congress from profiting off stock trades. **It does not** prevent members of Congress from profiting off ownership or trades of other asset classes.

Voters lose confidence in their elected officials if they believe their representatives in Washington are abusing their position for personal gain, but SITA fails to address this critical issue. In fact, all of the following are allowed under SITA:

- **Stock ownership** — Late last year, nearly 50% of Members of the 119th Congress owned stock,⁴ and a 2022 New York Times study found that “[a]t least 97 current members of Congress bought or sold stock, bonds or other financial assets that

¹ See *Congress and the Public*, Gallup, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/1600/congress-public.aspx> (last visited Feb. 3, 2026).

² Raihan Alam & Tage S. Rai, *Knowledge of politician stock trading reduces congressional legitimacy and compliance with the law*, 122 PNAS (2025), <https://www.pnas.org/doi/pdf/10.1073/pnas.2501822122>.

³ *Ban on Stock Trading for Members of Congress Favored by Overwhelming Bipartisan Majority*, Program for Public Consultation (July 19, 2023), <https://publicconsultation.org/united-states/stock-trading-by-members-of-congress/>.

⁴ *Congressional Stock Trading by the Numbers*, Campaign Legal Ctr. (Nov. 18, 2025), <https://campaignlegal.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/Congressional%20Stock%20Trading%20by%20the%20Numbers%20-%20119th%20Congress.pdf>.

intersected with their congressional work or reported similar transactions by their spouse or a dependent child.”⁵ SITA allows members to continue holding stocks of companies they are supposed to oversee. Most notably, **SITA allows members of Congress to take actions and vote on legislation that would increase the value of their stock portfolio, or other assets they own.**

- **Stock sales** — Some of the most notable and profitable trades by members of Congress and their families have been sales, not purchases, including sales made during the 2020 pandemic and the 2023 banking collapses.⁶ **Sales during times of volatility create the appearance that officials are prioritizing their investments over resolving a crisis.** This leads to public outrage that could continue unabated under SITA.
- **Private transactions** — SITA fails to bar many types of private transactions, including stock purchases of private companies, cryptocurrency purchases, commodity purchases, certain corporate bonds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs). **Many of these are the functional equivalent of a public stock purchase**, such as ETFs that exist solely to replicate or amplify public stocks. For instance, members could still invest in the Tesla Bull ETF, a fund designed to track and magnify Tesla’s public stock performance.

Passing SITA would serve to hide insider trading, not stop it, leading to more of the exact same problems — issues that have again drawn public attention in 2026.⁷ The only path forward that can rejuvenate the American people’s faith in Congress is serious reform though meaningful bipartisan cooperation. SITA does not come close to qualifying as real reform.

Forgoing viable, bipartisan legislation in favor of partisanship and ineffectual half measures would be a political and ethical failure that would further erode Americans’ trust in government.

VOTE NO on SITA and support the *Restore Trust in Congress Act*, a comprehensive bill that actually stops insider trading and ends the conflicts of interest that have plagued Congress and the American people for far too long.

⁵ Alicia Parlapiano, Adam Playford and Kate Kelly, *These 97 Members of Congress Reported Trades in Companies Influenced by Their Committees*, New York Times (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/09/13/us/politics/congress-members-stock-trading-list.html>.

⁶ Aaron Blake, *How damning are Richard Burr’s and Kelly Loeffler’s coronavirus stock trades? Let’s break it down.*, Wash. Post (Mar. 20, 2020), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/03/20/richard-burrs-kelly-loefflers-suspiciously-well-timed-stock-trades-during-coronavirus-examined/>; Kate Kelly, *As Fears of Banking Crisis Surged, Members of Congress Sold Bank Shares*, N.Y. Times (Apr. 19, 2023), <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/19/us/politics/congress-stock-trading-banks.html>;

⁷ See Kate Plummer, *Republican Confronted Over Alleged Insider Trading in Elon Musk’s Grok*, Newsweek (Jan. 15, 2026), <https://www.newsweek.com/lisa-mcclain-xai-stocks-elon-musk-grok-insider-trading-11363413>.

Sincerely,

Campaign Legal Center

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)

Common Cause

Democracy Defenders Action

Issue One

P Street

Project on Government Oversight (POGO)

Public Citizen