

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2601
(202) 225-1589 Fax
www.ackerman.house.gov
www.facebook.com/repackerman

218-14 NORTHERN BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
BAYSIDE, NY 11361
(718) 423-2154
(718) 423-5053 Fax
www.youtube.com/repackerman
www.flickr.com/repackerman

Gary L. Ackerman
Congress of the United States
5th District, New York

**COMMITTEE ON
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AND GOVERNMENT
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

July 15, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Your name is being used by a private company enabling them to generate untold millions of dollars.

It started out innocently enough, when what was then a nonprofit educational program that brought students to Washington D.C., placed the names of Members of Congress on its Honorary Board of Congressional Advisors. However, the nonprofit sold itself to its for-profit company in 2007 and continues to use your name and the names of almost a majority of Congress for its own profitable and promotional advantage.

Now as a for-profit and free from the transparency requirements of a non-profit organization, the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC) is charging students \$1900 for a six-day program touring free sites in Washington D.C. (transportation to and from D.C. not included). Making a profit isn't the problem, but using yours and the names of 205 other Members of Congress to seemingly endorse and promote the company without notifying Members that they are doing so is certainly at a minimum, highly questionable.

Straddling the line is nothing new for CYLC. Its questionable practices include spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on general mailing lists for students to solicit and then telling parents that their child was selected based on, "academic achievements and leadership potential." CYLC has no minimum GPA or class standing eligibility requirements and yet all the students they mail are proclaimed as selected high achievers.

Parents who are so proud of their "high achievers" can join the Parents of High-Achieving Children club for \$39.95 a month and sign-up for the Parents of High-Achieving Children platinum credit card.



CYLC is able to pull off the appearance that its products are endorsed by Congress, because in addition to the deceptive company name and logo, they tout to *your* constituents that *you*, by name, are on their Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors. CYLC has every right to offer its program and sell its products. However, the private company and its owners should not make profit from the appearance that they are endorsed by Congress.

You may wish to consider as I have, requesting your name be removed from CYLC's Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors and their promotional materials. You can reach

CYLC at (703) 584-9454 or at congressionalaffairs@cylc.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Craig Lindwarm of my staff.

Sincerely,

Gary H. Ackerman