Ethics Watchdog Asks for Probe of Hillary Clinton for Favoritism

FACT Says Top Clinton Donors Were Given Special Access to the State Department

(Washington, D.C.) – January 11, 2016- The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust (FACT), a non-partisan ethics watchdog group directed by former U.S. Attorney Matthew G. Whitaker, has asked the U.S Office of Government Ethics for a full investigation into Clinton’s apparent breach of ethics rules.

According to news reports and Hillary Clinton’s own emails, Secretary Clinton routinely gave preferential treatment to individuals with which she had financial ties. This was not a single incident, and Clinton Foundation and political donors were regularly granted access to Secretary Clinton or one of her aides to discuss issues before the state department. In fact Hillary’s emails show that in one case George Soros was “impressed” with the level of access he was given, and stated that he could always meet with or call Secretary Clinton to discuss policy issues.

“There’s a growing and disturbing narrative surrounding Clinton in the way in which she conducted business at the State Department. Essentially, if someone wanted access to her, they needed to be a significant donor to her political campaigns or to her philanthropic endeavors, the kind of treatment that ordinary Americans would not have,” said Director for the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust, Matthew G. Whitaker. “Providing special access political and other donors is a blatant violation of ethics rules,” Whitaker added.

Other examples include special meetings with Bill and Melinda gates whose family foundation has donated more than $25 million, Victor Pinchuk whose foundation has donated more than $13 million, Susie Buell whose community foundation has donated over $10 million, and Haim Saban whose family foundation has donated more than $10 million. These donations were all made to the Clinton Foundation through 2015. In addition to donating to the Clinton Foundation, some of these donors were also political donors.

FACT points out that ethics laws require all citizens to be treated equally by government officials, and that the ethics rules prohibit government officials from giving preferential treatment to anyone for any reason, and require that government officials do not have conflicts of interest that do or could appear to affect their actions.

Last month, FACT called for a federal probe into communications during Hillary Clinton’s time at the State Department which suggest that then Secretary Clinton gave special treatment to a private mining company as a result of the company’s relationships with Clinton’s son-in-law and donors to the Clinton Foundation.
A full copy of the complaint can be read here: http://media.wix.com/ugd/65db76_6bf1f2c904d24632b505bd676cbf0884.pdf

FACT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting accountability, ethics, and transparency in government and civic arenas. For more on FACT, visit: http://www.factdc.org/. 