

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2009 12:27 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: (AP) US Congress Party Switch

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**From:** Polley, Mary E  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-H  
**Sent:** Tue Dec 22 12:20:30 2009  
**Subject:** (AP) US Congress Party Switch

WASHINGTON - Senior House aides say freshman Democratic lawmaker Parker Griffith of Alabama is switching to the Republican Party. Griffith was narrowly elected last year from a region of northern Alabama that includes Huntsville and Decatur. President Barack Obama lost the district badly to Republican John McCain. Griffith is a radiation oncologist. His switch comes as Congress is trying to pass a much-contested health care bill. Democrats will still control the House by a substantial margin.