

Reaction to Rep. Mark Foley's resignation

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Miami Herald Staff Report

A roundup of reaction to the resignation of Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla.:

"I just think it's a very extraordinarily sad day, and a very sad situation for many people." Thursday night on the floor of the House of Representatives, Foley ``obviously had the weight of the world on his shoulders. It was apparent he was in an extremely difficult situation."

- Rep. Robert Wexler, D-Fla.

``It's a tragedy for him and his family. I don't want to get into the pain of the closet. It's irrelevant if he's gay or not."

- **Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

"This type of behavior is what I try to protect my grandchildren from. It is unacceptable. He should have resigned. Members of Congress are responsible for protecting the most vulnerable among us -- our children. I support the Speaker's decision to investigate the Page Program."

- Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla.

"The challenges facing Congressman Foley make this a difficult time for the people of the 16th District. The families of all of those involved are in our thoughts and prayers. . . We have been running a spirited campaign on the issues important to the people of the 16th Congressional District: issues like homeowners' insurance, healthcare, education, dignity for our seniors, winning the War on Terror and we will continue to do so."

- Tim Mahoney, the Democrat running for Foley's seat

``At this point, we are meeting with our legal team to ensure that state, federal, and party laws and rules are upheld in the nomination of a replacement for Congressman Foley. When a determination has been made, we will communicate that to interested media."

- Republican Party of Florida Communications Director Jeff Sadosky

``My thoughts are with Congressman Foley and his family during this difficult time -- this is a tragic and sad situation on many levels. I join our community in thanking him for his years of dedicated public service."

- State Sen. Ken Pruitt, a St. Lucie Republican and incoming Senate president.

“My heart goes out to his family but more importantly I'm really disappointed if these allegations are true and if he's resigned, it appears they may be true. If Mark has resigned because of inappropriate behavior than it's not a loss at all, it's the right thing to do, people should expect that and I don't know why else you would resign.”

- Gov. Jeb Bush on ABC WPLG television in South Florida

“As somebody who has met Mark Foley personally and has mutual friends, I am sad for Mark and I hope he doesn't go to jail. The last time I saw Mark, he was 19 years into a relationship. That was sad that it had to be hidden. I hope the Republican Party continues to evolve so it's not so difficult to be an openly gay Republican. Will this play into the fears that all gay people are pedophiles? I hope not. There are heterosexual situations as well. Everybody decries this kind of situation. Even Mark Foley did, but he couldn't control it.”

- Finance writer Andrew Tobias of Miami, treasurer of the Democratic National Committee

“What he did was wrong and he's going to have to answer for it. To me it (resigning) was the only thing to do. We need to make sure pages who come up here are protected.”

- Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Fla.