And Buchanan has been investigated by the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Federal Election Commission. His businesses received fines for illegal campaign finance practices. The watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington has named Vern Buchanan one of “the most corrupt members of Congress” five times now.

The House Ethics Committee, Federal Election Commission, And Department Of Justice Investigated Allegations That Buchanan’s Car Dealerships Illegally Reimbursed Employees For Donating To Buchanan’s Campaign. “The Committee investigated allegations relating to Representative Buchanan’s campaign, including whether several car dealerships partly owned by Representative Buchanan illegally reimbursed their employees for contributions to Representative Buchanan’s House campaigns and whether Representative Buchanan himself may have been aware of the unlawful reimbursements at the time they occurred, or had some role in directing or approving of them. […] The FEC investigated the allegations of unlawful reimbursements and the allegations concerning Representative Buchanan’s knowledge of, and involvement with, the corporate reimbursement of campaign contributions, and the allegation that he attempted to influence Mr. Karzan’s testimony before the FEC. The FEC closed its investigation as it related to Representative Buchanan on February 1, 2011, taking no further action against him. Additionally, beginning in late 2011, the DOJ investigated similar allegations relating to Representative Buchanan. The DOJ closed its investigation around September 2012.” [House Ethics Committee, Report, 6/24/16]

The Federal Bureau Of Investigation Investigated Witness Tampering Allegations Against Buchanan. “Republican Rep. Vern Buchanan, a self-made Florida millionaire, is only in his third term in Congress, but he already is in charge of fundraising for the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, and he sits on the powerful House Ways and Means committee. But all that could be jeopardized. Federal investigations underway could result in Buchanan serving his next term behind bars. CNN has confirmed there are no fewer than four congressional and federal investigations into Buchanan's business practices, his campaign finances and his alleged attempt to try to stop a witness from talking. […] In a recent report, released quietly several weeks ago, the Office of Congressional Ethics wrote: ‘There is substantial reason to believe that Buchanan attempted to influence the testimony of a witness in a proceeding before the FEC in violation’ of federal law and House ethics code. Read the OCE’s report on the affidavit (pdf). Now a full House ethics committee is looking into it. CNN has also learned that the FBI is conducting its own investigation.” [CNN, 6/22/12]

**HEADLINE:** “Powerful Congressman Accused Of Campaign Finance Violations” [CNN, 6/22/12]

The Federal Election Commission Fined Three Buchanan-Owned Businesses A Total Of $94,400 For Illegally Reimbursing Employees' Donations To Buchanan's Campaign Committee. “Three Buchanan-owned businesses have been cited since 2008 of illegally reimbursing employees for making donations to his campaigns. In August 2010, the FEC fined Buchanan’s Venice Dodge Nissan $11,000 for reimbursing car dealership employees for making donations to Buchanan’s 2006 congressional campaign. In December 2011, the FEC fined another car dealership Buchanan used to own in Pasco County, called Suncoast Ford, and Buchanan’s partner there, $15,500 for illegally reimbursing employees for donation to Buchanan. Also in 2011, the FEC fined Hyundai of North Jacksonville, another former Buchanan-owned dealership, $67,900 for illegally reimbursing employees for making donations to Buchanan’ 2006 and 2008 campaigns.” [Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 9/27/12]

In A Federal Election Commission Case, A Federal Court Ordered Hyundai Of North Jacksonville, A Largely Defunct Car Dealership That Was Majority-Owned By Buchanan, To Pay A $68,000 Fine For Illegal Campaign Donations To Buchanan. “In an anticipated move, a federal court on Thursday hit U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan's former car dealership with a nearly $68,000 fine for making illegal donations to his past campaigns. The U.S. District Court in Jacksonville ordered that nearly defunct Hyundai of North Jacksonville be penalized for pressuring employees to give donations to Buchanan's campaigns in 2006 and 2008 and later reimbursing the workers. Pressuring employees and reimbursing them are both violations of federal election laws. […] Even though Thursday's ruling goes against Buchanan's former company, it may ultimately be good news for the three-term Congressman because it signals the potential end of the long, drawn-out legal skirmish over the campaign donations. Now that the Federal Election Commission has won a legal judgment, it could have less
motivation to go after Kazran, legal experts say. That would stop the case, which started in 2008, from eventually dragging on to a targeted trial in spring of 2012. […] Though Buchanan was the majority owner of the company in 2005, the FEC has decided not to sue Buchanan, and instead go after Kazran.” [Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 10/13/11]


HEADLINE: “Vern Buchanan's Former Car Dealership Is Fined For Illegal Contributions” [Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 10/13/11]

Buchanan Was Named To The Citizens For Responsibility And Ethics In Washington’s “Most Corrupt Members Of Congress” List In 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, And 2013. According to Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington’s 2013 “Most Corrupt Members of Congress” report section on Buchanan, “Representative Vern Buchanan (R-FL) is a four-term member of Congress, representing Florida’s 16th congressional district. His ethics issues stem from: (1) pressuring partners and employees to make contributions to his campaign committee; (2) reimbursing them from his corporate funds; (3) trying to coerce a partner into signing a false affidavit; (4) improperly using corporate resources for campaign purposes; (5) tax evasion; and (6) lying on his financial disclosure forms. He was included in CREW’s 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2012 reports on congressional corruption for related matters.” [Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, CREW’s Most Corrupt Members of Congress Report, 2013]