

FBI raids congressman's family business

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Rep. Rick Renzi, R-Ariz., has temporarily left the House Intelligence Committee, after an FBI raid on his family's business.

FBI agents took documents in the raid, Renzi said in a statement issued late Thursday night, and reported by The Arizona Republic.

"I view these actions as the first step in bringing out the truth," Renzi said. "Until this matter is resolved, I will take a leave of absence from the House Intelligence Committee. I intend to fully cooperate with this investigation."

Roll Call first reported the FBI raid Thursday, saying agents raided the Patriot Insurance Agency in Sonoita, Ariz.

In a financial disclosure statement last May, Renzi reported his wife, Roberta, owned the agency, which was valued at \$1 million to \$5 million.

The Justice Department has been investigating Renzi for months, the newspaper said, but the nature of the probe has never been made public.

Renzi has denied any wrongdoing.

Democrats have speculated that the Renzi investigation might be connected to the firing of former U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton, who was forced out of office in December in a purge of federal prosecutors that Congress is currently investigating.

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