

STRENGTHEN OUR FAMILIES - PRESERVE OUR PLANET - DEFEND OUR COUNTRY -
RESTORE ACCOUNTABILITY - GROW OUR ECONOMY - STRENGTHEN OUR FAMILIES -
PRESERVE OUR PLANET - DEFEND OUR COUNTRY - RESTORE ACCOUNTABILITY - GROW
NOVEMBER 14, 2007

A NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ

The American people continue to demand a New Direction in Iraq. This war – now lasting nearly five years, longer than World War II – has cost Americans too much, in terms of lives, dollars, and our reputation around the world.

On November 14, the Democratic-led House passed the Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act by a vote of 218 to 203. This legislation will change the direction of the President's failed Iraq policy by requiring the President to redeploy our troops, while providing our soldiers in harm's way with the resources they need.

President Bush has asked Congress for an additional nearly \$200 billion for Iraq. Instead, the bill provides \$50 billion to meet the immediate needs of our troops, conditioned on a redeployment timeline and other critical directives aimed at transitioning our role in Iraq and bringing our troops home.

The bill states that it is the sense of the Congress that the primary purpose of the funds made available by this Act should be to transition the mission of the U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq and undertake their redeployment, and not to extend or prolong the war. The bill requires the redeployment of our troops to begin within 30 days of the bill's enactment, with a goal for completion of the redeployment by December 15, 2008.

In addition to a redeployment to begin within 30 days, the legislation:

- ★ Prohibits deployment of U.S. troops to Iraq who are not fully trained and fully equipped;
- ★ Requires a transition in the mission of U.S. forces in Iraq from primarily combat to: force protection and diplomatic protection; limited support to Iraqi security forces; and targeted counterterrorism operations;
- ★ Includes an extension to all U.S. government agencies and personnel of the current prohibitions in the Army Field Manual against torture.

This Congress will continue to fight for change to President Bush's 10-year, trillion dollar war. Democrats are committed to:

- ★ bringing our troops home responsibly, honorably, safely, and soon,
- ★ repairing the readiness of our military, and
- ★ refocusing our efforts to fight terrorism around the world.

VOTES RELATED TO IRAQ IN THE HOUSE IN 2007



House Resolution Disapproving of the Troop Surge (H. Con. Res. 63, Skelton) – Disapproves of the President's plan to increase the number of troops in Iraq by more than 20,000 U.S. service men and women. Passed 246-182 (2/16/07).

U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act (H.R. 1591, Obey) – Holds the Bush Administration and the Iraqi Government accountable and sets a responsible timeline for the phased redeployment of U.S. troops. Passed 218-212 (3/22/07). Conference Report passed 218-208 (4/25/07). Vetoed by President Bush (5/1/07).

Revised Iraq Accountability Act (H.R. 2206, Obey) – Continues to hold the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government accountable, providing two-months funding, but requiring the President to submit a report on progress in Iraq before more funds are released. Passed 221-205 (5/10/07).

Setting a Timetable for the Redeployment of U.S. Troops Out of Iraq (H.R. 2237, McGovern) – Calls for redeployment of troops to begin within 90 days and to be completed within 180 days of enactment. Failed 171-255 (5/10/07).

Amendment #2 to Senate-passed FY 2007 Supplemental Bill (H.R. 2206) – Provides supplemental FY 2007 funding for the war; takes the first step in holding the President accountable, requiring reports on benchmarks. Passed 280-142 (5/24/07).

Responsible Redeployment for Iraq Act (H.R. 2956, Skelton) – Begins the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq within 120 days and completes the transition to a limited presence by April 2008. Passed 223-201 (7/12/07)

No Permanent Bases in Iraq (H.R. 2929, Lee) – States that it is not the policy of the U.S. to establish any permanent military installation in Iraq. Passed 399-24 (7/25/07)

Responsible Troop Deployment Cycles (H.R. 3159, Tauscher) – Enhances national security and supports our troops and their families by increasing the time troops are at home between deployments to Iraq. Passed 229-194 (8/2/07).

Requiring Report on Planning for Redeployment (H.R. 3087, Tanner-Abercrombie) – Requires the Administration to report to Congress in 60 days – and every 90 days thereafter – on the status of planning for troop redeployment. Passed 377-46 (10/2/07)

Holding U.S. Private Security Contractors in War Zones Accountable (H.R. 2740, David Price) – Ensures that U.S. private security contractors in war zones – such as Blackwater employees – will be held accountable for criminal behavior. Passed 389-30 (10/4/07)

War Profiteering Prevention Act (H.R. 400, Abercrombie) – Makes overcharging in order to defraud or profit excessively from military action or reconstruction a felony, subject to 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$1 million or twice the profits. Passed 375-3 (10/9/07)

Condemning Withholding Information on Iraqi Corruption (H. Res. 734, Waxman) – Condemns the State Department for withholding information about corruption in the Iraqi government from Congress. Passed 395-21 (10/16/07)

Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act (H.R. 4156, Obey) – Requires the President to redeploy our troops, while providing \$50 billion to meet the immediate needs of the troops. The bill requires the redeployment of the troops to begin within 30 days, with a goal for completion of December 15, 2008. Passed 218-203 (11/14/07)

