



Rep. Anna G. Eshoo

Statement of Rep. Anna G. Eshoo
Second Amendment to the *Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008*
May 15, 2008

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of today's second amendment that includes a clear path out of Iraq, a plan that my constituents and the vast majority of Americans are demanding.

More than five years ago the President proclaimed "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq. Paradoxically, he insists on a permanent U.S. presence there. And what exactly has this Administration "accomplished" in Iraq?

- More than 4,000 U.S. soldiers have been killed and almost 30,000 injured;
- Tens of thousands Iraqi civilian deaths;
- An emboldened Iran and new threats from Al Qaeda in the region;
- \$519 billion taxpayer dollars spent and a future expenditure of some \$3 trillion;
- A hobbled Iraqi government unable to provide clean water, medical care, jobs for its people, or pass critical oil sharing legislation;
- A U.S. military on the verge of collapse and unable to press vigorously the critical fight in Afghanistan or respond to other crises in the world;
- And still no exit strategy.

With no end game in sight, the Administration and its supporters in Congress are complicit in a continuation of a failed policy which they insist on extending with a blank check policy to accompany it.

The President owes it to our brave men and women in Iraq and their families, he owes it to the American people, and he owes it to the citizens of Iraq not to leave this mess for the next President to finish.

This bill establishes a clear path out of Iraq. The language requires the Administration to begin redeployment 30 days after enactment and requires Secretary Gates to submit to Congress within 90 days a report detailing plans to reduce and redeploy troops from Iraq. It prohibits sending troops to Iraq that are not assessed as "fully mission capable" of performing their assigned mission, and outlaws the presence of a permanent U.S. base there. Additionally, this provision requires the Iraqi government to match every U.S. dollar spent for training and infrastructure construction and repair. Finally, it prohibits the intelligence community from subjecting detainees to interrogation techniques not authorized by the U.S. Army Field Manual. This will essentially abolish the use of water torture and begin to restore America's standing in the world community.

As a Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence it is vital that we extend the ban on torture to the Intelligence agencies. The President has said he will veto any ban on torture, clearly demonstrating his desire to reserve for himself the right to subject detainees to these horrendous techniques. Congress has an obligation to make it clear that the American people do not believe in torture and will not allow it to continue.

This amendment sets a decisive course out of Iraq and begins to shift responsibilities to the Iraqi government. I urge my colleagues to heed the demands of the American people and support this strategy.