

Eshoo: Iraq Bill "Sets a New Course for Ending the War"

March 23, 2007

Eshoo: Iraq Bill "Sets a New Course for Ending the War"

March 23, 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, voted today for H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007, and submitted the following statement for the record in support of the legislation.

"Madam Speaker, our country has just begun the fifth year of war in Iraq. By overwhelming numbers, the American people want a new direction and I believe this bill contains the policy and the plan to help bring an end to the misguided policies of the Administration.

"Military leaders, Generals Abizaid, Odom and Powell, as well as former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, have all come forward to observe that the Administration's war-without-end policy is not a strategy for success.

"Today's legislation directs itself to important change. It sets a new course for ending the war.

"The bill requires accountability: It puts the Iraqis in charge of Iraq. If they cannot or will not bring their country under control, if conditions continue to worsen and political and military benchmarks are not met, beginning in July 2007 (less than four months from today), our troops will begin an immediate redeployment.

"The bill begins a redeployment: It sets a firm timeline to pull U.S. troops out of Iraq and in legally-binding terms declares that all U.S. troops will be out of Iraq by August 31, 2008, if not sooner.

"It requires the Iraqis - not our soldiers - to reign in the militias, aggressively pursue the insurgents and provide "evenhanded security for all Iraqis."

"The bill prohibits the establishment of any permanent military bases. It bans the use of torture. It redirects resources back to the fight against terrorism and Al-Qaeda, and recommits us to creating a stable state in Afghanistan.

"The bill takes care of our troops. It provides over \$3 billion more than the President's request to meet the neglected needs of our returning soldiers and veterans around the country.

"The following are quotes from respected national leaders:

"Retired General William Odom, former Director of the National Security Agency under President Reagan and member of the National Security Council under President Carter stated recently: 'Getting out of Iraq is the pre-condition for creating new strategic options.'

"According to former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski: 'The United States cannot afford an open-ended commitment to a war without end. A means must be devised to end the U.S. combat role in Iraq and reduce our troop levels, so that we can begin to rebuild our military and reclaim our position of leadership in the world. The bill the House will consider this week does that in an effective and responsible way.'

"Former NATO Commander Wesley Clark: 'The conflict must be resolved politically - military efforts alone are insufficient - and this legislation strongly promotes that political solution.'

"Madam Speaker, I will vote for this supplemental legislation. For the first time the debate about Iraq is not 'if' or 'how.' It is about 'when'...when our troops will come home.

"It is binding language.

"It is sensible language.

"It is language that will change the direction of the war.

"It is language that will help to heal our wounded troops.

"It is language that will help heal our nation.

"I urge my colleagues to support the bill."

##

[Return to Top](#)