

# Supplemental Appropriations Support Documents

- Statement from Wesley Clark
- Move-On.Org Support Letter and Press Release
- Support Letter from Retired Generals and other retired military officers
- Council for a Livable World Support Letter
- SCHIP Support Letter

**Statement Released to the Press by Retired General and  
Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Wesley K.  
Clark, Endorsing the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans'  
Health and Iraq Accountability Act**

March 14, 2007

“House Democrats have offered a responsible approach that protects our Armed Forces, the troops and their families, and encourages both the Iraqis and the Bush Administration to work more effectively to salvage some success in ending what has been a tragically mistaken and failing mission. This conflict must be resolved politically - military efforts alone are insufficient – and this legislation strongly promotes that political solution. This legislation is the product of the kind of responsible legislative leadership that the American people voted for in 2006, and I wholeheartedly support this bill.”

# MoveOn Members Endorse House Democratic Plan to End the War in Iraq

**Measure Doesn't Go Far Enough, But is an Important Step to End the US Occupation of Iraq; New Radio Spot Targets GOP Congressmen for Support of President's Escalation**

By PR Newswire

WASHINGTON, MARCH 19 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- In an online survey over the weekend, 85% of MoveOn members directed the organization to support the House Democratic Leadership measure that sets a date certain for redeploying American troops out of Iraq.

Tomorrow, MoveOn.org Political Action will begin airing radio spots targeting Congressman James Walsh (R-25th NY) and Phil English (R-3rd PA) for failing to support this measure. The spots will run through Friday.

While members expressed concern that The Troop Readiness, Veterans Health & Iraq Accountability Act does not go far enough or move fast enough and contains loopholes, they decided that it was an important step to end the US occupation of Iraq.

"MoveOn members want a responsible end to the war by the end of 2007. While this measure doesn't go far enough, they know the choice is a war without end or a safe and responsible end to the war. This measure is an important step in the right direction," said Eli Pariser, Executive [Director](#) of MoveOn.org Political Action.

The online vote started on Sunday and ended at 3 pm ET today. More than 126,000 members took part in the vote.

"I agree it may not go far enough, but it is a first step," said MoveOn member Ruel B. from Fremont, California. "Hopefully, the first step on the road to getting out of Iraq."

"One step at a time," said Susan M. from Houghton Michigan. "Most of America is ready to end this misguided, miscalculated and malevolent aggression. I just returned from an Iraq War anniversary march. Not a single car or truck that passed us ridiculed us, and MOST honked and gave the thumbs up. This is middle America, not the posh liberal suburbs."

"Congressman Walsh should develop a backbone and stand up to the President's misguided plan in Iraq," said Tom Matzzie, Washington [Director](#) of MoveOn.org Political Action. "We overwhelmingly voted to end the war in November and its time for Congress to follow that mandate," concluded Matzzie.

# Center for American Progress Action Fund



Dear Members of the 110th Congress,

We are writing to urge you to take immediate action to protect our troops.

We are concerned that the plan to deploy additional troops to Iraq, coupled with the serious readiness deficiencies, have left our armed forces in a state of emergency.

The situation in Iraq, grave and deteriorating, is troubling to us both as former military commanders and as American citizens. Top military officials have consistently acknowledged that the repeated and lengthy deployments are straining the Army, Marine Corps and Reserve and National Guard forces, and are taking a heavy toll on critical warfighting equipment.

We urge you to put pressure on the Iraqi government to take control of their own country and relieve the burden from American troops by setting a clear and definite timeline for a phased and deliberate redeployment of American combat forces from Iraq by no later than August 2008. We urge you to ensure that our troops meet the readiness standards required to protect Americans both at home and abroad. We urge you to ensure that those who serve in the name of this country receive the health care and support they need when they return to us.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr. (USA, Ret.)  
Former President of the National Defense University

Brigadier General John Johns (USA, Ret.), PhD  
Former Combat Arms Officer; Professor, national security strategy, National Defense University

Colonel Richard L. Klass (USAF, Ret.)

Captain Lawrence Korb (USNR, Ret.)  
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations, and Logistics), 1981-1985

Major General Mel Montano (USANG, Ret.)  
Former Adjutant General of New Mexico

Lieutenant General William E. Odom (USA, Ret.)  
Former Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence of the Army, and former Military Assistant to the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs, 1977-1981

# Council for a Livable World

March 16, 2007

Dear Member,

We urge you to vote “yes” on the Supplemental Appropriations bill to take legislative action to end the war in Iraq. This legislation is an important step in bringing U.S. troops home.

The Supplemental Appropriations bill is the latest in a series of votes that have increased pressure on the Bush administration to end this disastrous conflict. Each action builds on the last, as opponents of the war have attracted more votes to their side. Passage of the Supplemental Appropriations bill will add to this momentum and build pressure for even stronger votes in the future.

Taken in context, the growing Congressional opposition to the war is dramatic:

- In May, 2005 opponents of the war supported an amendment by Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) expressing the sense of Congress that the President should submit a plan for withdrawal from Iraq. That proposal attracted 128 votes in support of their position and pioneered the opposition to the war.
- In June, 2006 opponents of the war opposed a resolution by Henry Hyde (R-IL) against setting a withdrawal date. They won 153 votes.
- In January, 2007 opponents of the war supported a resolution by Ike Skelton (D-MO) and Tom Lantos (D-Ca) opposing President Bush’s plan to escalate the war. It gained a robust majority of 246 votes, including 17 Republicans.

As Republicans are likely to be nearly unanimously united in opposition to the Supplemental Appropriations bill, it is vital that Iraq war opponents unite in support of the bill. Defeat of the legislation will be interpreted by President Bush and Vice-President Cheney as giving them a free hand to pursue the Iraq war as they wish. They will be able to say that Congress has given them an all clear sign to escalate the conflict. In practical terms, they will deny the import of the Pentagon report that Iraq is now engaged in a full scale civil war. Passage of the Supplemental Appropriation, on the other hand, will pave the way even stronger legislation in the coming months.

The Supplemental Appropriations legislation is part of an ongoing process that will lead to Congress helping bring the war to an end. Those progressive legislators who have taken strong positions against the war have helped bring us to the next step in ending the war. The Supplemental Appropriations bill mandates withdrawal beginning within a year, and sooner if advances towards peace and Iraqi responsibility are not achieved. The alternative to passing the Supplemental is not the passage of legislation with a tighter timeline. Rather, defeat of the Supplemental will hand President Bush the policy and political victory he longs for by enabling the passage of a funding bill with no restrictions or timeline for withdrawal at all. That would be an irresponsible and tragic outcome.

Like many progressives, we were disappointed that language barring an attack on Iran without prior congressional approval was not included in the Supplemental. However, there will be other opportunities to promote such legislation and to put other safeguards against dangerous provocations by the Bush administration in place. We believe that even without this language, the Supplemental is a powerful rebuke of President Bush's policies in the Middle East.

Passage of the Supplemental Appropriations bill is a vital step in a sustained strategy to end the war. This strategy has successfully built momentum against the war. We urge you to vote "yes" on the Supplemental Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

John Isaacs  
Executive Director  
Council for a Livable World

Guy Stevens  
Chief Operating Officer  
Council for a Livable World

March 16 , 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-220 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi and Representative Boehner:

We, the undersigned organizations, which include national, state and local children's health advocacy, faith-based and child service provider organizations, are writing to urge you to take immediate action to address the imminent FY 2007 State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funding shortfall that currently threatens health coverage for scores of children in 14 states. Specifically, as you take up legislation related to emergency supplemental appropriations, we urge you to take into account the millions of low-income Americans who are on the brink of losing coverage due to the \$745 million FY 2007 SCHIP funding shortfall. As leaders in the House and Senate, we urge you to avert this coverage crisis for children and to include funding for this most pressing national health concern in whatever supplemental appropriations legislation is considered on the House and Senate floors.

SCHIP is a vital program to ensure that coverage is available for working families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to afford private sector coverage. Since its inception in 1997, SCHIP has reduced the numbers of uninsured children by almost one-third. Indeed, no government program has been more successful in expanding children's health care coverage than SCHIP. While we appreciated efforts by Congress last November to forestall the SCHIP funding shortfall, the problem continues and once again children in states across the nation are at risk of losing coverage.

Members and Senators on the committees of jurisdiction are already drafting legislation to reauthorize SCHIP, which expires later this year. We are hopeful that the reauthorization bill will include funding appropriate to address the long-term viability and future success of the program. However, a short-term solution is critical if we are to make sure that no one who is currently enrolled in SCHIP is added to the rolls of our nation's uninsured.

We appreciate your leadership on issues affecting children and urge you to take quick action to ensure that coverage continues for all who are currently enrolled in SCHIP.

Very sincerely yours,

Alliance for Children and Families  
First Focus  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Council of La Raza  
National Human Services Assembly  
PICO National Network  
United Neighborhood Centers of America  
United Way of America  
Voices for America's Children  
YMCA of the USA