

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
- Former National Security Advisor Brzezinski Endorses Iraq Accountability Act
- SEIU 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.ORG **POLITICAL ACTION**[®]

March 20, 2007

Democratic Member of Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Member of Congress,

Since the war in Iraq began four years ago, millions of Americans have waited for the time when Congress would have a debate over **WHEN** and not **IF** we should responsibly redeploy from Iraq.

This week we will have that debate—and while the Pelosi-Obey-Murtha Iraq bill does not go as far or as fast as MoveOn members would like, they overwhelmingly support its passage as a step towards ending the war.

Over the last two days, MoveOn's 3.2 million members voted in an online ballot on whether together we should, as a membership, support or oppose the bill. **Over 84 percent voted to support the measure—even while wanting Congress to go farther, faster.**

The choice was crystal clear for MoveOn members: **Bush wants endless war, the Democratic plan would safely end the war.**

The Pelosi-Obey-Murtha bill would stop Congress' bad habit of writing blank checks for President Bush's failures in Iraq. Previous Congresses rubber-stamped President Bush's failures in Iraq. This bill stops the blank checks—and sets a firm set of deadlines to safely end the war.

If you are concerned about a hasty exit, this is by far one of the longest timelines for an exit—a compromise from progressives. Further, the public is widely supportive of even sooner timelines and is already impatient that Congress has failed to act.

If you are concerned that the measure waits too long, President Bush's veto threat is a reminder that losing this vote would play into his strategy to continue the war without end. The deadlines are a significant progressive victory that should not be minimized. They are not as fast as we'd like but it is a major step forward.

MoveOn members themselves articulated the resolution to this conundrum the best. Here is what a few of them said.

*It will be a huge step forward to pass legislation opposed to the war in Iraq. Those who want more still need to back this important step. The Bush administration is counting on the wide spectrum of opinion on the war among Democrats to prevent passage of such legislation. We need to prove that Democrats can unite on core principles.—
Jeanetta M. CT*

We have got to be very careful about dividing and self destructing. Let's not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Sheila C., NM

I voted for the plan, somewhat reluctantly. I'd like to see a resolution for strengthening diplomatic engagement along with diminishing military efforts. Frank B, CA

Getting out now would be even better, but we need a large consensus vote from all opponents, not a symbolic minority vote. Bush is going to veto the resolution anyway, but we will have marked an important milestone if this resolution passes. It will be a precedent, and that's highly important. Stephen F., IN

It is also important that Congress stop implicit and explicit support for the Baghdad government regime that is supporting and conducting ethnic cleansing. The bipartisan Iraq Study Group reports that, "Iraqi police...routinely engage in sectarian violence, including the unnecessary detention, torture and targeted execution of Sunni Arab civilians." [p 9] The Bush strategy is putting American forces into the middle of ethnic cleansing campaigns being implicitly conducted by the Iraqi government. This is wrong morally and it is against our national interest. Congress should immediately act to expose it and stop it.

Over the next few days MoveOn members will make their voices heard. They will write letters, make phone calls and maybe visit your office in person. Some hold differing views— together we know that we must win this vote as a step forward. **MoveOn members urge you to vote "Yes" on the Pelosi-Obey-Murtha Iraq supplemental bill.**

Please contact MoveOn Washington Director Tom Matzzie at tom@moveon.org if you have any questions.

Thanks for all you do.

**Eli Pariser
Executive Director**

**Tom Matzzie
Washington Director**

**Nita Chaudhary
Campaigner**

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

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Former National Security Advisor Brzezinski Endorses Iraq Accountability Act

Washington, D.C. – Former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski today endorsed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act and issued the following statement:

"The Iraq plan approved by the House Appropriations Committee last week provides what has been lacking: a means to hold the Iraqi government accountable for its performance by conditioning U.S. support to the meeting of benchmarks already endorsed by President Bush and Iraqi leaders. After four years of war, it is clear that a different approach is needed if the Iraqis are to be encouraged to make the political accommodations necessary to promote stability and national reconciliation.

"Despite President Bush's request that our assistance to Iraq continue to be given with 'no strings attached,' 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."



March 20, 2007

Dear Representative:

We write in strong support of a responsible, phased redeployment of our U.S. Armed Services from Iraq and critical appropriations for our national priorities contained in the 2007 Supplemental Appropriations bill. Most notably, the increased spending for: continued support for equipment and readiness of our troops; support for the health care needs of our enlisted veterans; \$750 million to address state shortfalls in the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP); and finally raising the nation's minimum wage.

On behalf of the 1.8 million members of SEIU, we write to express in the strongest terms necessary the support we feel for our service women and men. Our troops and their families, many of whom are SEIU members, are shouldering the burden of this misguided war – prolonged and repeated separation from their families and loved ones, and in the most severe instances the sacrifice of their lives – in their service of all of us and our country. SEIU is strongly opposed to the Bush Administration's "surge" of troops to Iraq. Our opposition to the war was set by a 2004 Convention Resolution and was just reaffirmed by the International Executive Board in its January 2007 Resolution (see attached).

SEIU supports the principles embodied in the report of the Iraq Study Group and calls for the Congress to implement a steady withdrawal of our Armed Forces from Iraq. We have heard from our own SEIU members – serving in National Guard units – that active duty forces are without proper protection, equipment, and training. SEIU members employed in many DOD and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers are all too aware of the human cost of this war. SEIU supports the inclusion of the proper restrictions on the use of our troops, for their well-being, in the Supplemental. We also support additional funding included in the supplemental for veterans health care. In addition funding specific to Iraq and troop support, SEIU supports other critical national funding initiatives included in the supplemental – Gulf Coast relief, rural school funding, and two items on SEIU's national legislative agenda, specifically:

SCHIP – Hundreds of thousands of children face the loss of health care coverage under SCHIP due to shortfalls in federal funding. At least 14 states have exhausted their federal allotments for this successful program. SEIU supports the inclusion of \$750 million to help states continue to cover children and families who qualify for the program. Congress should assist those states who have fulfilled their partnership role in SCHIP and enrolled eligible children and families by providing them with additional immediate funding and by improving overall funding for SCHIP later this year when the program is reauthorized.

ANDREW L. STERN
International President

ANNA BURGER
International Secretary-Treasurer

MARY KAY HENRY
Executive Vice President

GERRY HUDSON
Executive Vice President

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March 20, 2007

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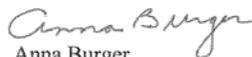
Minimum Wage – The minimum wage was last increased in September 1997, to its current rate of \$5.15 per hour. Minimum wage earners have not seen an increase in a decade due to Congressional inaction, while Members of Congress have received eight pay raises, totaling more than \$31,000, during that same period. SEIU has long supported a minimum wage increase as embodied by the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (H.R. 2). We believe it is important not to delay passage any further. Therefore, we support the inclusion of H.R. 2 in the emergency supplemental, which boosts the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 over two years coupled with the package of smaller small-business tax breaks contained in H.R. 976.

The SEIU Scorecard can be found at www.seiu.org and reflects votes critical to our working family agenda. The vote on final passage will be added to the SEIU Scorecard.

We urge your support and YES vote for the 2007 Supplemental Appropriation. Please contact Alison Reardon, Director of Legislation, if you have questions regarding information contained in this letter at 202-730-7706.

Sincerely,


Andrew L. Stern
International President


Anna Burger
International Secretary-Treasurer

ALS:AB:AR:gmb

Attachment: SEIU Resolution

opeiu#2
afl-cio, clc