

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 589

Creating a select committee to oversee and, where necessary, investigate and maximize the necessarily significant appropriations expended to win the War on Terror, especially within the operational theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER (for himself and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Creating a select committee to oversee and, where necessary, investigate and maximize the necessarily significant appropriations expended to win the War on Terror, especially within the operational theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Whereas America's effort to win the War on Terror has necessarily involved significant appropriations, especially within the operational theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas these appropriations are dedicated to maximally supplying our military personnel and singularly achieving victory, especially in operational theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq; and

Whereas in this time of war the Congress must exercise its duty to oversee the expenditure of these appropriations to ensure these funds are being properly and fully expended to provision our military and promote our victory: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.**

3 Until otherwise provided by law, there is hereby cre-
4 ated a select committee (hereinafter referred to as the
5 “Victory Committee”) to oversee and, where necessary, in-
6 vestigate any and all appropriations expended to win the
7 War on Terror, especially within the operational theaters
8 of Afghanistan and Iraq.

9 **SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS.**

10 (a) MEMBERSHIP.—The Victory Committee is to be
11 composed of 10 Members of the House, to be appointed
12 by the Speaker (of whom 5 shall be appointed upon the
13 recommendation of the minority leader), one of whom
14 shall be designated as chair from the majority party and
15 one of whom shall be designated vice chair from the minor-
16 ity party. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the
17 Victory Committee shall be filled in the same manner in
18 which the original appointment was made.

19 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Victory Committee shall con-
20 duct ongoing oversight and, where necessary, investiga-
21 tions of appropriations made by the United States Govern-

1 ment to win the War on Terror, especially in the oper-
2 ational theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq, and to make
3 such recommendations to the House as the Victory Com-
4 mittee deems appropriate regarding the following matters:

5 (1) Overseeing and ensuring compliance with
6 the bidding, contracting, and auditing standards ap-
7 plicable to United States Government contracting
8 with domestic and foreign business entities, domestic
9 and foreign governmental entities, and domestic and
10 foreign non-governmental entities.

11 (2) Examining and, where necessary, proposing
12 expansions of oversight procedures regarding appro-
13 priated United States Government funds to the
14 above listed entities.

15 (3) Enforcing the accountability of the above
16 listed entities to ensure appropriated United States
17 Government funds are being fully utilized and effec-
18 tively implemented in accordance with their specified
19 purposes.

20 (4) Guaranteeing no United States Government
21 funds appropriated to the above listed entities are
22 through misfeasance or malfeasance being wasted,
23 embezzled, laundered, or otherwise misappropriated
24 and mismanaged, especially as such illegitimate ac-

1 tions may result in such funds passing into the
2 hands of our Nation's enemies.

3 (5) Recommending penalties for discovered vio-
4 lations of law and abuses in the awarding and execu-
5 tion of Government contracts and agreements.

6 (6) Recommending the exclusion and replace-
7 ment of any and all non-compliant or under-per-
8 forming entities listed above.

9 (7) Promoting within large comprehensive con-
10 tracts the inclusion and utilization of small busi-
11 nesses, through subcontracts or otherwise.

12 (8) Addressing other such other matters as the
13 Victory Committee deems appropriate.

14 **SEC. 3. RULES AND PROCEDURES.**

15 (a) QUORUM.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—4 members of the Victory
17 Committee shall constitute a quorum for the trans-
18 action of business, except that the issuance of any
19 report, recommendation, or investigatory finding
20 shall require a majority of the committee to be actu-
21 ally present.

22 (2) LESSER NUMBER PERMITTED FOR HOLDING
23 HEARINGS.—The Victory Committee may designate
24 a lesser number of members, but not less than 2, as

1 a quorum for the purpose of holding hearings to
2 take testimony and receive evidence.

3 (b) POWERS.—For the purpose of carrying out this
4 resolution, the Victory Committee may——

5 (1) sit and act during the present Congress at
6 any time and place within the United States or else-
7 where, whether the House is in session, has recessed,
8 or has adjourned;

9 (2) may hold such hearings as it considers nec-
10 essary; and

11 (3) require, by subpoena or otherwise (as pro-
12 vided in subsection (c)), the attendance and testi-
13 mony of such witnesses, the furnishing of informa-
14 tion by interrogatory, and the production of such
15 books, records, correspondences, memoranda, pa-
16 pers, documents, and other things and information
17 of any kind, including classified materials, as it
18 deems necessary to further and perform its mission.

19 (c) ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS.—A subpoena may be
20 authorized and issued by the Victory Committee in the
21 conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or
22 activities only when mutually authorized by the chair and
23 the vice chair. Authorized subpoenas shall be jointly
24 signed by both the chair and the vice chair (or, in their
25 absence, by their designated members of the Victory Com-

1 mittee), and may be served by any person designated by
2 the chair and vice chair. Subpoenas shall be issued under
3 the seal of the House and attested by the Clerk. The Vic-
4 tory Committee may request investigations, reports, and
5 other assistance from any agency of the executive, legisla-
6 tive, and judicial branches of government.

7 (d) MEETINGS.—The chair, or in his or her absence
8 the vice chair, shall preside at all meetings and hearings
9 of the Victory Committee. If the chair and vice chair are
10 absent, the Victory Committee’s meeting or hearing shall
11 be conducted by the designee of the chair. All meetings
12 and hearings of the Victory Committee shall be conducted
13 in open session, unless a majority of members of the Vic-
14 tory Committee vote otherwise, there being in attendance
15 the requisite number of required for the purpose of hear-
16 ings to take testimony.

17 (e) APPLICABILITY OF THE RULES OF THE
18 HOUSE.—The Rules of the House of Representatives ap-
19 plicable to standing committees shall govern the Victory
20 Committee where not inconsistent with this resolution.

21 (f) WRITTEN COMMITTEE RULES.—The Victory
22 Committee shall, upon a majority vote, adopt additional
23 written rules to govern its procedures, which shall be made
24 public and shall not be inconsistent with this resolution
25 or the Rules of the House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

2 (a) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.—Except as provided in
3 subsection (b), the Victory Committee staff shall be ap-
4 pointed, and may be removed, by the chair and shall work
5 under the general supervision and direction of the chair.

6 (b) POWERS OF VICE CHAIR.—All staff provided to
7 the minority party members of the Victory Committee
8 shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the vice chair
9 of the committee, and shall work under the general super-
10 vision and direction of the vice chair.

11 (c) COMPENSATION.—The chair shall fix the com-
12 pensation of all staff of the Victory Committee, after con-
13 sultation with the vice chair regarding any minority party
14 staff, within the budget approved for such purposes for
15 the Victory Committee.

16 (d) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Victory
17 Committee may reimburse the members of its staff for
18 travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred
19 by them in the performance of their functions for the Vic-
20 tory Committee.

21 (e) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—There shall be paid
22 out of the applicable accounts of the House such sums
23 as may be necessary for the expenses of the Victory Com-
24 mittee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed
25 by the chair of the Victory Committee and approved in
26 the manner directed by the Committee on House Adminis-

1 tration. Amounts made available under this subsection
2 shall be expended in accordance with regulations pre-
3 scribed by the Committee on House Administration.

4 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

5 Upon the agreement of the chair and vice chair and
6 the subsequent approval by vote of a majority of its mem-
7 bers, the Victory Committee shall issue its reports, rec-
8 ommendations, and (where necessary) investigatory find-
9 ings to the House. Any report issued by the Victory Com-
10 mittee when the House is not in session shall be filed with
11 the Clerk of the House. Any report issued by the Victory
12 Committee shall be referred to the committee or commit-
13 tees that have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the
14 report.

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