

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5499

To provide for a timetable for the redeployment of the United States Armed Forces from Iraq and to seek political and diplomatic solutions for the security and stability of the Republic of Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2008

Ms. TSONGAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a timetable for the redeployment of the United States Armed Forces from Iraq and to seek political and diplomatic solutions for the security and stability of the Republic of Iraq.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be referred to as the “Iraq Redeploy-
5 ment Timetable and Political Reconciliation Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SERVICE OF**
2 **UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN IRAQ AND**
3 **POLITICAL RECONCILIATION IN IRAQ.**

4 It is the sense of the Congress that—

5 (1) the men and women of the United States
6 Armed Forces have served honorably and expertly in
7 Operation Iraqi Freedom;

8 (2) political reconciliation in the Republic of
9 Iraq is the key component in providing stability in
10 Iraq;

11 (3) political reconciliation cannot occur in the
12 Republic of Iraq without robust diplomatic efforts by
13 the United States and the international community;

14 (4) the overwhelming presence of the United
15 States Armed Forces in Iraq has neither encouraged
16 nor precipitated the political, religious, ethnic, and
17 tribal leaders in Iraq to achieve political and diplo-
18 matic solutions in providing security and stability for
19 their own nation;

20 (5) a defined schedule for redeployment of the
21 United States Armed Forces from Iraq, which is the
22 only real remaining political leverage available to the
23 United States, is the quickest, safest, and most re-
24 sponsible way to bring the Armed Forces home;

25 (6) a defined schedule for redeployment re-
26 quires the people and government of Iraq to take re-

1 sponsibility for their future and will help engage the
2 international community to assist the people and
3 government of Iraq in making political progress; and
4 (7) continuous and extended deployments of the
5 United States Armed Forces have compromised
6 United States military readiness around the globe
7 and reduced the ability of the United States to re-
8 spond to other international commitments, notably
9 Afghanistan.

10 **SEC. 3. TIMETABLE FOR REDEPLOYMENT OF UNITED**
11 **STATES ARMED FORCES FROM IRAQ.**

12 (a) COMMENCEMENT OF REDEPLOYMENT.—Not
13 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the
14 Act, the Secretary of Defense shall commence the rede-
15 ployment of the units and members of the United States
16 Armed Forces deployed in Iraq.

17 (b) PURPOSE OF REDEPLOYMENT.—The redeploy-
18 ment required by this section shall be carried out for pur-
19 poses of—

20 (1) ensuring that the national security interests
21 of the United States are protected; and

22 (2) improving the military readiness of the
23 United States Armed Forces.

24 (c) COMPLETION OF REDEPLOYMENT.—The Sec-
25 retary of Defense shall complete the redeployment of the

1 United States Armed Forces from Iraq by the end of the
2 180-day period beginning on the date on which the Sec-
3 retary of Defense commences the redeployment required
4 by subsection (a).

5 (d) REDEPLOYMENT REPORT.—Not later than 60
6 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense
8 committees a report outlining the necessary elements of
9 the required timetable for the redeployment of the United
10 States Armed Forces from Iraq. To the maximum extent
11 possible, the report shall be submitted in an unclassified
12 format. The report shall include—

13 (1) a timetable for completion of the redeploy-
14 ment within 180 days after commencement;

15 (2) an estimate of the number of members of
16 the United States Armed Forces needed to perform
17 the activities described in subsection (f);

18 (3) an estimate of the number of sea, air, and
19 ground equipment required to perform the activities
20 described in subsection (f);

21 (4) a plan for ensuring the safe and orderly
22 withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from
23 Iraq;

24 (5) an estimate of the cost of providing security
25 for United States citizens remaining in Iraq to con-

1 duct diplomatic, economic, and social rehabilitation,
2 including Provincial Reconstruction Teams; and

3 (6) the total estimated costs of redeployment.

4 (e) CERTIFICATION OF REDEPLOYMENT.—Upon the
5 completion of the redeployment, the Secretary of Defense
6 shall submit a report to the congressional defense commit-
7 tees certifying that all United States Armed Forces have
8 been redeployed from Iraq.

9 (f) PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN
10 BAGHDAD, IRAQ.—Notwithstanding any other provision of
11 this Act, the Secretary of Defense may retain members
12 of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq in such num-
13 bers as the Secretary considers required for protection of
14 the United States Embassy compound in Baghdad, Iraq.

15 **SEC. 4. RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ.**

16 (a) DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.—Concurrently with the
17 redeployment of United States Armed Forces pursuant to
18 section 3, the Secretary of State shall continue to work
19 with the elected Government of Iraq to provide for the
20 security and stability of Iraq and its transition to demo-
21 cratic rule through diplomatic means.

22 (b) CONTINUATION OF DIPLOMATIC, SOCIAL, AND
23 ECONOMIC REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ.—Noth-
24 ing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise
25 restrict the use of funds available to any department or

1 agency of the United States, other than the Department
2 of Defense, to carry out diplomatic, social, and economic
3 rehabilitation activities in Iraq.

4 (c) REPORT AND COMPONENTS.—Not later than 30
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every
6 30 days thereafter, the President of the United States
7 shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the
8 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
9 tives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
10 ate a report describing the efforts by the United States
11 to carry out diplomatic, social, and economic rehabilitation
12 activities in Iraq. The report shall include, at minimum—

13 (1) current efforts to effect political dialogue
14 among the political, religious, ethnic, and tribal lead-
15 ers in Iraq;

16 (2) current efforts of international organiza-
17 tions in assisting with political reconciliation in Iraq;
18 and

19 (3) initiatives, either planned or ongoing, for
20 assistance by the United States to the Government
21 of Iraq to assist in the areas of governance, rule of
22 law, democracy, and human rights protections.

1 **SEC. 5. MIDDLE EAST SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ORGANI-**
2 **ZATION.**

3 (a) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
4 Congress that—

5 (1) security and stability in Iraq and the broad-
6 er Middle East is vital to all nations of the world;

7 (2) diplomatic involvement of the broader inter-
8 national community in the regional security and sta-
9 bility of Iraq and the Middle East region is essen-
10 tial;

11 (3) involvement in the Middle East region re-
12 mains vital to the national security interests of the
13 United States;

14 (4) the Middle East region lacks a regional se-
15 curity and economic organization that would allow
16 for increased dialogue among participating nations;

17 (5) a regional security and economic organiza-
18 tion, modeled on the Organization for Security and
19 Cooperation in Europe, should be created; and

20 (6) a regional, multilateral security and eco-
21 nomic organization provides the structure necessary
22 to cultivate regional security and to promote eco-
23 nomic development and cooperation in the Middle
24 East region.

25 (b) NEGOTIATIONS.—In parallel with the redeploy-
26 ment of United States Armed Forces from Iraq pursuant

1 to section 3, the Secretary of State shall begin immediate
2 negotiations for the creation of a multi-lateral security and
3 economic organization for the Middle East region, to be
4 known as the “Middle East Security and Economic Orga-
5 nization”.

6 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Middle East Secu-
7 rity and Economic Organization is to cultivate regional se-
8 curity and to promote economic development and coopera-
9 tion in the Middle East region.

10 (d) COMPOSITION.—At minimum, the Middle East
11 Security and Economic Organization should be comprised
12 of nations located in the Persian Gulf and broader Middle
13 East region, as well as the broader international commu-
14 nity. It is the sense of Congress that the composition of
15 the Middle East Security and Economic Organization in-
16 clude—

17 (1) representative countries from the League of
18 Arab States;

19 (2) member states from the North Atlantic
20 Treaty Organization; and

21 (3) interested nations holding seats in the UN
22 General Assembly.

23 (e) REPORT.—Within 30 days after commencement
24 of negotiations to establish the Middle East Security and
25 Economic Organization, and every 30 days thereafter until

1 negotiations are complete, the Secretary of State shall
2 submit to the congressional defense committees, the Com-
3 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,
4 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate
5 a report describing the progress of negotiations in forming
6 the Middle East Security and Economic Organization.

7 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) The term “United States Armed Forces”
10 has the meaning given the term “armed forces” in
11 section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code.

12 (2) The term “congressional defense commit-
13 tees” means—

14 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
15 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
16 of Representatives; and

17 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
18 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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