

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

April 24, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House, Office of the Speaker,  
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAME, SPEAKER: It is my desire to resign from the House Committee on Financial Services immediately. I look forward to returning to the committee soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

RICK RENZI,  
U.S. Congressman,  
First District of Arizona.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

#### LET THE SURGE WORK AND NOT SIGNAL DEFEAT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, many in Congress and around this country insist that the President take the advice of The Iraq Study Group. Well, the President is doing just that. The report states, "We could, however, support a short-term redeployment or surge of American combat forces to stabilize Baghdad, or to speed up the training and equipping missions needed."

Well, my colleagues, that is what the President is trying to do. The cochair of the study group, James Baker, had this to say: "Setting a deadline for withdrawal regardless of conditions in Iraq makes even less sense today because there is evidence that the temporary surge is reducing the level of violence in Baghdad."

Rather than support a bill that leaves our troops in harm's way for a cause Democrats believe cannot be won, Democratic leaders should be willing to vote to allow time to let the surge work and not signal defeat.

#### SOWING THE SEEDS THROUGH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RE- SEARCH ACT

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act. By cultivating the Nation's next generation of skilled scientists and researchers who are in the early stages of their careers, the House-passed plan will better ensure that our Nation educates the best and the brightest young people to be scientists and engineers.

I firmly believe that leadership and innovation is absolutely necessary for the United States to maintain its competitive advantage in the increasingly global marketplace. My own home district in southeastern Pennsylvania is a leader in the field of biotechnology. I have seen the economic and social ben-

efits of innovation and technology in science and engineering.

Science, research and biotechnology industries attract highly skilled workers and offer them good wages and benefits. These innovators and the businesses they are creating in my home district make us competitive in this global marketplace. Most importantly, they are developing new treatments, medicines, vaccines, that are improving the quality of life for people around the world. As the sister of a dedicated scientist and the mother of a young medical researcher, I recognize the need to support the work of highly skilled scientists whose work is on the cutting edge of research and development.

Madam Speaker, the "Sowing the Seeds Through Science and Engineering Research Act" will help ensure that we encourage and train highly skilled scientists in Pennsylvania and across the Nation. I am proud to have supported its passage.

#### SUPPORT AND FUND THE TROOPS

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, some of the Democratic leadership have declared it the job of Congress to micromanage the war in Iraq. Yet we learn today that the Speaker of the House has refused to be seen face-to-face with the very military commanders whose hands will be tied by the Democrat war funding bill.

This latest insult to our troops should come as no surprise as others in the Democratic leadership have declared the war lost despite our military commanders' statements to the contrary, and before General Petraeus has gotten the reinforcements he has requested. His reinforcement hasn't even been fully implemented before Congressional leaders have called it a failure.

I urge my colleagues to insist on a funding bill that does not give our enemies a date for our surrender. I believe our soldiers when they say the war is not lost, and we must give our military the resources it needs to win. Language of surrender is inappropriate with troops in the field and reinforces the perceptions of our enemies.

#### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND BRING THEM HOME

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, there will be a conference committee report by the Senate and the House on the Iraq supplement, and the Iraq supplement will have a requested date, suggested date for our withdrawal.

It's not saying we have been defeated. We have won the war. America has won the war. Saddam Hussein's government was toppled and Saddam Hussein is history. We are now in an

occupation, and you cannot win an occupation.

You cannot defeat beliefs with bullets. What we have in Iraq and in the Middle East are beliefs that are different from ours, and they can only be won by understanding and through changes, which God would put in people's hearts, and not through bullets. We need a bill to support our troops, and our bill will support our troops with more money than the administration gave it.

I ask the President to support the troops with the bill that the Congress will give him and support our troops and bring them home.

#### THE IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, 79 days and counting since President Bush committed his request for critical funding needed for our troops fighting on the front lines.

The Democratic leadership should bring the emergency supplemental to the floor without a timetable of defeat. It's not a decision of this House to arbitrarily pick a date this war should end. It's our job to ensure our military personnel have the resources they need to win and come home in victory. I wonder what men and women risking their lives every day for our safety, our security, our freedom, think about the Members of Congress sitting in their comfortable offices, playing politics with their money.

I came to the House floor this morning to speak to them and let them know there are Members of Congress who believe our military can succeed, and we are doing everything within our power to ensure victory. As long as I am United States Congressman, I will never turn my back on you. I will not stand in Washington, D.C., and tell your generals how to fight this war, and will never put politics above your safety or that of our Nation.

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#### GUARANTEE ACCESS TO AFFORD- ABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL CITIZENS

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning on behalf of 47 million Americans who go to sleep every night knowing that tomorrow they may go broke solely because they cannot afford health insurance.

People without coverage often delay treatments they desperately require, and we are all paying the price, for early treatment saves lives and saves money. We saw that in Blacksburg, Virginia, and we see it every day in emergency rooms and in amputations due to diabetes.

There is a better way of doing things, a way to guarantee access to affordable care for all citizens. Let's build the largest insurance risk pool possible, 300 million strong. If you are a citizen, you are in.

Let's openly disclose prices so we know the price of a pill before we swallow it. And let's be kind to those who are in need.

I urge the President to extend the lifesaving SeniorCare drug program in Wisconsin, and please, please, please, do not veto the children's SCHIP health care program.

There is a better way of doing things. Let's find it together, with no patient left behind.

#### DEMOCRATS' DEFEATIST SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, while our troops are on the battlefield continuing to go without critical funding needed to fulfill their missions, Democrat leaders still refuse to put forward a clean supplemental bill.

Last week, Senate Democrat Leader HARRY REID declared the Iraq war "lost." Just yesterday, a Democrat Congressman said it is the job of Congress to micromanage the war. Our military leaders should manage the war, not politicians in Washington.

Despite reports of progress by our military leaders, Democrats continue to advocate withdrawal and defeat. This puts American families at risk at home. Early withdrawal will escalate, not end, the global war on terrorism.

Our troops deserve more from the men and women elected to provide for their well-being. Members of both parties should support our troops and pass a clean supplemental bill.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### DEMOCRATS EXPAND HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, this is Covering the Uninsured Week, so I wanted to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues about the 9 million children in America that live without health insurance. I also wanted to take the opportunity to remind the American people that just last month, the Democratic Congress passed a 2008 budget that includes a \$50 billion increase in funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and we did it without raising a penny of taxes. By contrast, the President submitted a budget that, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, would cut 1 million additional children out of the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Thankfully for the American people, Madam Speaker, Democrats rejected the President's budget in favor of one that expands health care for children.

#### TIME TO PASS A CLEAN TROOP FUNDING BILL

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, the Democratic leaders have ignored the President's promise to veto legislation which loads our soldiers down with their pork-barrel spending and sets arbitrary deadlines for pulling out of Iraq. They know it is going to be vetoed, but they continue to make our troops wait.

The Commander in Chief, by their provision, would have to wait 15 days to deploy troops in certain circumstances, preventing us from having reinforcements for our soldiers in harm's way. They want to tie the hands of our generals by setting a surrender date. The first surrender date, they said, is July 1 of this year.

We don't need 535 generals in Washington commanding our troops. We need the professionals.

It is past time for the Democrats to do the right thing and pass a bill which funds our troops in harm's way. Their final drop-dead date deadline that they have set is very interesting, April 1, 2008. April Fool's day. Who are they trying to fool?

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS SUPPLEMENTAL CONFERENCE REPORT

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, the conference agreement reached between the House and the Senate on the Iraq accountability bill provides more funding than the President has asked for our troops, more for our veterans, while forging a new direction in Iraq. This bill will hold the President accountable for meeting his own military readiness standards. The Iraqi Government will also be held accountable for the first time for meeting political, economic, and security benchmarks that the administration itself has set.

This Congress must pass this legislation, because our troops have performed magnificently. The administration has failed. They have failed to hold the Iraqis accountable.

President Bush criticizes our time lines, while both Secretary Gates and General Petraeus admit there is no military solution, and Secretary Gates even called the time lines in the bill "constructive" and "helpful" in pushing the Iraqis to a solution.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a constitutional responsibility to be accountable for war to the American public. The President will have the oppor-

tunity to sign this bill on the fourth-year anniversary of his declaration of "mission accomplished." I and the vast majority of the American people urge him to do so.

#### TROOPS NEED RESOURCES TO WIN THE WAR IMMEDIATELY

(Ms. FALLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FALLIN. Madam Speaker, Congress must immediately send our troops the resources that they need to win this war, without strings and without delay. But instead, the Democrat leadership is proposing to tie the hands of our troops and hamstringing our generals with a misguided plan to micromanage the war effort. This is just unacceptable.

The Los Angeles Times has said, "It's absurd to try and micromanage this conflict and the evolution of Iraqi society with arbitrary time lines and benchmarks." And I agree.

It is absurd to assume that this war can be planned by 535 Members of Congress instead of our generals and our Commander in Chief. War by committee is not an option. I encourage the Democrat leadership of Congress to bring forth immediately a clean bill that provides the necessary funds for our troops and leaves tactical decisions in the hands of our generals and those who are experts.

#### WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, this Saturday is Workers Memorial Day, when we mourn the loss of workers who have been killed on the job or from work-related diseases. Additionally, this year marks the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Although there has been progress, thanks to the tireless advocacy of organized labor, many workers are still at risk. Last year, in Illinois alone, 194 occupational fatalities were recorded. Unfortunately, OSHA, under the Bush administration, has issued only one major standard in its 6-year tenure, and has either withdrawn or delayed dozens of worker protection measures.

Congress must ensure the first step of workplace safety by requiring that OSHA issue timely standards and ensure the enforcement of those standards in all areas of the workforce.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight, and I encourage all Members of Congress to honor our Nation's workers this Saturday.

#### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS WITH A CLEAN SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)