

Energy Lab. And with this focus on energy conservation, renewable energy and distributing energy in a way that is reliable, we will make this country more secure. And I am confident that the President is going to focus on it, as will we in the Congress.

#### FUNDING FOR OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, efforts to cut off funding for our troops in harm's way is simply unacceptable. It would be a devastating message to the brave men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, their families and the families of our Nation's fallen heroes. No one knows this better than SAM JOHNSON, a true American hero, and I commend him on introducing H.R. 511.

It is time for the Democrats to say what they mean and mean what they say. They can't have it both ways. To vote to support troops in the field and then vote not to give them the resources needed to win can be deceptive, dangerous, and could put the lives of American servicemen and -women at even greater risk.

If the Democrat majority does not support the President's plan, they are in the majority, they need to put forth their plan that is in the interest of the American people, and they must also reflect upon the cost of failure. They must understand how high the stakes are in Iraq, both in terms of human life and global stability. Our failure in Iraq could cause the nation to become what Afghanistan once was, a breeding ground for terrorists. Let's work together and find freedom and security in Iraq.

#### THE STATE OF THE UNION

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

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker and my colleagues, the State of the Union?

Mr. President, we are on edge. The American public have said no to the war in Iraq and you have turned a deaf ear to this American admonition.

What does a troop escalation mean to American families?

More of our women and men, sons and daughters, brothers and sister, neighbors and friends will lose their lives or the life of someone they love, more families, such as the family of Operations Specialist Joseph Alomar, who gave his life in honor just this past week, and LCpl Nicholas Whyte, who gave his life this summer. More families, Mr. President, will be mourning. More of the American tax dollars will be spent on the war, rather than on building better schools, hospitals, roads and bridges.

Madam Speaker, in the 11th District of Brooklyn, New York, and in congress-

sional districts around the country, Americans want our troops home.

Mr. President, end this war in Iraq. Redeploy our troops now. We need our domestic tranquility.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I wanted to speak today about the debate on the war. And I have the honor of representing Fort Stewart, home of the Third Infantry Division, which is located in Hinesville and Savannah, Georgia.

This month the Third Infantry will start its third deployment to Iraq. And as they go over there, certainly they know what is going on in Washington in terms of the debate. But I think it is real important that we don't send a signal to our men and women in harm's way that what they are doing is irrelevant, that we can't win, and that because Bush might be a President whose policies aren't perfect that we need to withdraw.

In fact, I think what we should do is reaffirm on a bipartisan basis that we support the troops. We want to get them all the up-armored vehicles that they need, the Cougars, for example, blue tracking, the advanced night vision goggles. We should say on a bipartisan basis, we want to give them absolutely all the military hardware that they need to win the war. And then, in a separate debate, have the discussion of what an alternative is, where is the plan of the Bush critics and what is the price of pulling out. And I think we need to make that statement. And I am glad SAM JOHNSON is moving in that direction.

#### HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, we must seriously begin to address the problem of the Nation's uninsured and the skyrocketing price of health insurance.

Unfortunately, the plan the President is expected to outline tonight will do nothing to cut down on the number of uninsured because a tax deduction simply is not going to be enough to make insurance affordable to low and middle-income workers. In most cases, individual health plans are more expensive to purchase and provide considerably less coverage, but the Bush administration is under the false impression that their tax deduction will pro-

vide enough of an incentive for uninsured workers to sign up.

At the same time, the Bush administration falsely believes they can begin to target the cost of health care premiums by taxing employee-based health benefits. This is nothing more than a tax increase on middle-class workers who have been lucky enough to secure good benefits through their job. Quality health benefits provided by employers should be the norm; and as policymakers, we should not discourage it.

The President's proposal is a non-starter for me, Madam Speaker. But I am hopeful that I can work with the Bush administration to begin to solve some of our health care problems.

□ 1230

#### IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 511

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to associate myself today with the words of my colleague, Mr. SAM JOHNSON from Texas, a Member who can probably speak more eloquently than any Member of Congress on the loneliness, the separation, the uncertainty that is war, and the need to know for such soldiers that the Nation is behind them and supports them.

I have had the honor to travel and visit our troops in Iraq, and I have had the opportunity to visit the troops when they have returned. And in each and every one of them, I have seen their commitment and determination to the completion of their mission.

I have also had the opportunity to be with parents who have lost a son or daughter in the war, to look them in the eye and to hug them during that time, and to be with other parents who were about to see their son and daughter go off to war, and to be with them during those uncertain times.

Madam Speaker, at this point in time, this Nation and this Congress must double its commitment to our troops to make sure that they know that we are behind them and support them for their eventual and soon safe return to their families.

#### STATE OF THE UNION DOES NOT SUPPORT THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, tonight the President will give the State of the Union Address. For Hispanics, the State of the Union Address is disappointing. The President has broken his promise on education and cut funding for programs at the expense of Hispanic children. He has failed to support the higher minimum wage, and forced nearly 3 million of our workers to struggle to feed their families.

While Hispanics are fighting and dying in a mistaken war, President Bush still has no plan to make our country safer. Even when the country has cried for a comprehensive immigration reform, the President has failed to lead his own party to make the right course or take the right course of action.

Last November, Hispanics along with all Americans voted for a new direction for America. Thanks to Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic Caucus, half the Hispanic Caucus are now in leadership positions. Ya es tiempo para una nueva direccion! (It's time for a new direction!)

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SUPPORT H.R. 511

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to encourage my colleagues to support the troops in harm's way. We are fighting an ongoing war on terror not just in Iraq, but around the globe, and it is immoral for Members of this body to defund troops that are in harm's way.

That is why I commend my colleague SAM JOHNSON for stepping forward, for a resolution saying that we are not going to defund troops in harm's way, that we are going to stand beside them and fight with them in this war on terrorism and this war in Iraq, because, after all, terror is merely a tactic that Islamic extremists are using to fight the West.

As one of the last great powers in this world, we are the embodiment of the West. Therefore the Islamic extremists are seeking to destroy and undermine our society. So now more than ever we have to stand with our troops in harm's way so that they can defend us and make it possible for us to live in a vibrant, free Nation and a great economy.

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SUPPORT H.R. 511

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to let all of our troops serving overseas know that America supports you. Eliminating or cutting funding for our men and women who wear the uniform of the United States is not a recipe for ensuring stability in the Middle East; in fact, it is a recipe for demoralization, and it is irresponsible in its proposal. I urge all Members to support our troops and oppose any effort to cut off or restrict funding for American troops in harm's way, whether in Iraq, in Afghanistan, or elsewhere in the global war on terror.

It is imperative that we fully support those who are on the front lines fighting the war on terror. America thanks you, our brave men and women in uniform.

SUPPORT H.R. 511

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of SAM JOHNSON's resolution. I visited this fall with a Specialist William Barth at Walter Reed. I got this e-mail from his father, and I talked to his wife Rachel this morning. They encouraged me to proceed with this.

This is Specialist William Barth. His father said:

I wanted to thank you for visiting my son, Specialist William Barth, at Walter Reed. William was injured by an IED in Iraq around September 8, 2006. He since has recovered from these injuries and he has been re-deployed to Iraq. He is heading there now.

William is committed to his job and his fellow soldiers. He could have chosen to stay stateside; however, he felt the job, his job, was not finished. I have another son, Sergeant Aaron Barth, who is equally committed to the cause of freedom. Aaron has already served over a year in Iraq and is preparing to return as well.

Mr. Gohmert, my family is behind the President 100 percent. We are committed to the cause of freedom. Keep up the good work and do not allow anyone to defund the military. The next time you see the President, let him know that fellow Texans are praying for him, for you and for our Nation.

Now, this is support for the troops. That is what we need to be about, not defunding these guys fighting for us.

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SUPPORT H.R. 511

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H.R. 511 introduced by Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, which says that we ought to pledge the faithful support of Congress to members of the United States Armed Forces serving in harm's way.

Madam Speaker, there are a lot of things we can disagree on on this floor of the House, but cutting funding for our troops ought not be one of them. As many others have done, I have also visited Walter Reed and talked to the brave men and women who have served there, not just from my district, from my State and around the Nation. And when I ask them, is there anything that we can do for you, the vast majority of them say, Congressman, just let me get back to my unit.

Madam Speaker, that sense of duty, that sense of honor, that sense of commitment and that sense of patriotism is something we in Congress would do well to emulate. This resolution says that members of the United States Armed Forces have served honorably in their mission to fight terrorism and protect the greater security of the United States, that these members of the Armed Forces and their families have made many sacrifices. This resolution, Madam Speaker, deserves our support.

OUR TROOPS NEED TO LEAVE  
IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, so what is the state of our Union? It is war. It is neglect of an overt agenda. The President will come to our country tonight, and he will give us more war, 21,500 troops sent to escalate the war in Iraq, a war that has cost the lives of 650,000 innocent Iraqi civilians.

We need our President to realize that it is time to take a new direction, and that direction is out of Iraq. It is time to end the occupation, to withdraw our troops, to close the bases. It is time for us to work with the international community in an overall peace plan, which I presented to this Congress. The Kucinich plan calls for not only ending the occupation, withdrawing troops, closing the bases, but also an international peace plan that enables the Iraqi people to have the security they need through reconciliations, through reparations, and through paying for reconstruction.

The United States must lead the way with the international community in a plan for peace. The President must take a new direction.

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PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION  
OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A  
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio). The Chair lays before the House a privileged Senate amendment to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:  
Page 1, line 3, strike out "Wednesday" and insert "Tuesday".

The Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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PROVIDING FOR AN  
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 41) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 41

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, January 24, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, January 29,