

## Bush's Veto Sends Dangerous Message to Our Enemies

(First published in the Charlotte Sun-Herald on May 6, 2007)

In a speech at Miami Dade College last Sunday, the President said to graduating students, "One of the great strengths of America is that the most important issues are decided by the will of the people."

Then on Wednesday, he vetoed a bill that included critical funding for our troops and our veterans, required that the Iraqis take greater control of their own security, and refocused our efforts to defeat terrorist in Iraq and elsewhere.

He ignored the will of the American people who have shown a resolve to win the War on Terror, get our troops the resources they need in the field, and support our veterans here at home. And he sent a message to our enemies that America will continue to shortchange efforts to protect the homeland.

The bill was not a unilateral withdrawal. Instead, the bill would have ended America's participation in Iraq's religious civil war. It would have required that America focus on achieving our mission in Iraq: eradicating terrorism and helping Iraqi forces take control of their own security.

The emergency supplemental bill was not perfect, but it included some major components that I believe should be part of our strategy both in Iraq and in the global War on Terror:

- Strengthening the U.S. Military;
- Focusing our missions on fighting global terror networks, not policing religious civil wars and not nation building; and
- Bringing Osama Bin Laden to justice and fighting terrorists in Afghanistan

We must do more to protect our country through counterterrorism, strengthening homeland security, and improving military readiness. We can start by securing our ports and borders, making sure our first responders have the resources they need, rebuilding our military, and enhancing anti-terrorism operations throughout the world.

We have the best fighting men and women in the world: there is no battle they cannot win if America stands behind them. Now is the time for the President to listen to his generals and the "will of the American people." It is time for our President to do what it takes to protect our country. It is time for the President to send a message to our enemies that America will not be distracted from fighting terrorism in Iraq and around the globe.

I am proud of my votes to support our troops and our veterans and to win the War on Terror. I will continue to hold our government accountable to the promises it makes. America's security depends on it.

Congressman Tim Mahoney

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