

Mahoney Introduces Legislation to Implement Iraq Study Group Recommendations

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(Washington, DC) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) joined a bipartisan group of colleagues in introducing the Iraq Study Group Recommendations Implementation Act, H.R. 2574. This legislation would fully implement the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission.

"The President has chosen to cherry-pick recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, approving some while ignoring others. The Iraq Study Group's comprehensive plan was meant to be implemented in full. This bipartisan legislation is necessary to refocus our efforts on winning the War on Terror, and end America's participation in refereeing Iraq's religious civil war," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

The Iraq Study Group was a 10-person bipartisan panel appointed by Congress in March, 2006 for the purpose of assessing the situation in Iraq and making policy recommendations. The panel met for nine months and produced 79 recommendations. While some of the recommendations are being implemented, many are not.

The Iraq Study Group Recommendations Implementation Act establishes as U.S. policy:

- A new diplomatic offensive in the region that includes the creation of the Iraq International Support Group;
- Giving the highest priority to training, equipping, and advising the Iraqi military and security forces;
- Assessing the full budgetary and personnel impact of the war in Iraq on the U.S. military;
- Accelerating and increasing oil production and accountability including equitable distribution of oil revenues in Iraq;
- Implementation and oversight of economic reconstruction programs in Iraq with the creation of a new Senior Advisor for Economic Reconstruction;
- Ensuring that the President includes the cost of the war in his annual budget request; and
- Setting conditions that could lead to redeployment of U.S. combat brigades not needed for force protection as early as the first quarter of 2008 if diplomatic, infrastructure and security benchmarks are met.

Identical bipartisan legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Ken Salazar and Lamar Alexander.

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