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Inglis' plan to vote against troop surge fires up critics  
*Congressman says he won't back cuts in funding for troops or a withdrawal*

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By Ellyn Ferguson

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Bob Inglis will break with House Republicans and vote today for a nonbinding resolution criticizing President Bush's plan to send more troops to Iraq, citing misgivings about the plan's likely success.

His decision "shocked" Wendy Nanney, head of the Greenville County Republican Party. "I think this will hurt him with his home base here. I don't think it will jeopardize his future."

Judging from callers to WORD radio host Ralph Bristol, Nanney said Inglis may get an earful at future "Let's Talk" forums with constituents. She plans to talk to him soon.

Inglis said he decided his vote Wednesday and announced it Thursday.

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While he's willing to send Bush a symbolic message, Inglis said he won't go much further.

"I think it would be a mistake to withdraw. It would be a mistake to cut funding" for troops, he said.

Inglis said he worries that Bush's plan to send 21,500 combat troops to Baghdad and a neighboring province will take the pressure off Iraqi leaders to resolve issues that could reduce the sectarian violence.


Inglis said the resolution won't stop the troop surge but will put Bush on notice that lawmakers want to see progress in Iraq. "I'm hoping the president is right and I'm wrong (about the surge)," he added.

Inglis is the only one of the state's GOP lawmakers in Washington to support the resolution.

After the House votes, the Senate is expected to vote Saturday on taking up the House language.

Sen. Lindsey Graham vowed "to do everything in my power to ensure the House resolution dies an inglorious death. "

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