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Inglis to back Iraq resolution
House action critical of Bush troop surge plan

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GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON ó Rep. Bob Inglis will break with House Republicans and vote for a resolution criticizing President Bush's plan to send more than 20,000 troops to Iraq.

He joins at least 11 other Republicans who have announced they plan to back the resolution.

Inglis, R-Travelers Rest, had been undecided about the troop "surge" resolution until today.

His main concern was whether Iraqi leaders are willing to crack down on sectarian militias and provide troops to take the lead in ousting insurgents and foreign terrorists.


Advertisement In announcing his decision Thursday, Inglis said the United States had succeeded in the earlier phases of the war and that it is now time for the Iraqi to make hard decisions.

"My concern about another surge is that it will only delay the day that Iraqis make the political decisions necessary to quell the sectarian violence," Inglis said.

"I want all Iraqi factions to know that they don't have forever to make these decisions. We're providing their protection; we have a right to tell them to hurry. We have an obligation to our service men and women to tell the Iraqi factions to hurry."

The other five South Carolina House members are expected to split over the symbolic vote scheduled for late Friday or early Saturday.

Republicans Gresham Barrett, Henry Brown and Joe Wilson will vote against the two-sentence resolution, while Democrats James Clyburn and John Spratt will vote for it.

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