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## House repudiates Iraq war

**JESSICA BERNSTEIN-WAX, Washington Correspondent**

Rep. Bob Inglis broke with the Republican leadership on Friday by voting in favor of a nonbinding resolution that expresses disapproval for President Bush's plan to send 21,500 additional U.S. troops to Iraq.

"The job of the U.S. military is to crush, kill and destroy the enemies of the United States," the South Carolina Republican said during a speech on the House floor late Thursday night. "They are not nation builders -- they are warriors."

Inglis said the U.S. won the first two phases of the war by swiftly removing Saddam Hussein's government from power and breaking up terrorist networks. But only the Iraqi people can win phase three, at best "a sectarian killing spree" and at worst a full-blown civil war, he said.

"I'm concerned that a surge will ... give breathing room to the death squads, that our service men and women will be caught in the crossfire and that the surge will end right where it began," Inglis said.

A resolution is nonbinding when it states the view of its authors without requiring that any action be taken.

In voting for the resolution, Inglis and 16 other Republicans distanced themselves from their party's leadership, who said the measure would embolden terrorists by sending a message of weakness and retreat.

"Nonbinding means non-leadership -- it is non-accountability," Minority Leader John Boehner said in prepared remarks at the start of the grueling four-day debate.

"It is not the right message to send to the troops," the Ohio Republican added.

Also voting in favor of the measure was Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C.

Spratt, chairman of the House Budget Committee, voiced concern about the country's ability to continue paying an enormous price in dollars and in human lives -- thus far, Congress has appropriated \$379 billion for the war and some 3,100 servicemen and women have been killed, he said.

"Somebody needs to talk about the mounting cost of our commitment there," Spratt said in an interview. "Is that the only consideration? No. What's the most important cost is the cost of human lives."

The Senate's attempt to consider several non-binding resolutions on the troop increase failed earlier this month when Democrats and Republicans disagreed on which measures to include in the debate.

The Senate is scheduled to vote today on a procedural measure that, if approved, would move them closer to an up or down vote on the resolutions.

Sen. Jim DeMint said he isn't in favor of passing resolutions that "question our mission once our troops are deployed on that mission."

"I would hope that maybe some of the senators who are pushing some of these resolutions come to their senses and realize that if they had wanted to stop this thing they should have done it before it started," said DeMint, a Greenville Republican.

Sen. Lindsey Graham said he will "do everything in my power" to make sure the Senate kills the House resolution.

"The resolution will be seen by our enemies around the world as a weakening of our resolve," Graham said.

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