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Dear Republican Colleague:

This past week I traveled to Iraq as part of a bipartisan delegation to gauge the morale of our troops, talk with the officers and soldiers about the war, and witness the progress in Iraq and that of the Iraqi people. The bottom line: The war in Iraq is a much different war than the one we read about in the major media everyday. **Progress is being made.**

As you may have read in Tuesday's *Washington Times*, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "We've arrived at a strange time in this country, where the worst about America and our military seems to so quickly be taken as truth by the press and reported and spread around the world." He continued, saying the reporting is "often with little context and little scrutiny, let alone correction or accountability after the fact."

Attached is a report prepared by the *Media Research Center*, which studied the networks' coverage of the war in Iraq in 2005 and found that, in fact, the networks HAVE BEEN biased.

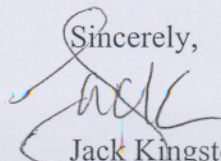
For instance, the data show that the coverage has been:

- ✓ **Overwhelmingly pessimistic;**
- ✓ **Increasingly negative over time;**
- ✓ **Highlighting terrorist attacks as centerpieces of the nightly news;**
- ✓ **Downbeat on the Iraqi political process; and**
- ✓ **Included only eight stories of heroism or valor by U.S. troops -- out of 1,388 news reports!**

This new study confirms what our troops told me in Iraq, that they wondered why only the bad news seemed to be getting reported to Americans through the media.

Journalists have an obligation and responsibility to report in a fair and balanced manner. Unfortunately, for our troops and the story about the war in Iraq, that is not happening.

Our nation's media can do better.

Sincerely,

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress