

**REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN DAVIS
SKELTON/BERMAN/LOWEY TO H.R. 5658
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009**

May 22, 2008

- I rise in support of the Skelton/Berman/Lowe amendment.
- Madam Speaker, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have highlighted why Congress and the executive branch must do a better job of marshaling all elements of national power in support of U.S. goals abroad and ensure that future missions are not military-centric, but joint, interagency efforts.
- The creation of an interagency advisory panel required to make recommendations to each department is an excellent first step.
- As important as the creation of this new panel is the coordination between committees that we see here today.

- We know that part of the interagency problem is the rigid stove-pipe structure found right here in this body.
- While this amendment seeks to influence the executive branch, it will take reforms on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue to have the type of interagency coordination we need to address the challenges of the 21st century.
- Madam Speaker, Chairman Skelton, Chairman Berman and Chairwoman Lowey deserve an enormous amount of credit for bringing this amendment to the floor and for pushing us in the right direction.
- I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment and I yield back the balance of my time.