

**Wally  
Herger**  
Congressman

**2nd District - California**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

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CONTACT: DARIN THACKER  
202-225-3076

## **Herger Hails Bill to Bring Terrorists to Justice**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Congressman Wally Herger today voted for H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act of 2006, which the House passed by a vote of 253 to 168. The legislation creates a new judicial system to prosecute terrorists captured in the ongoing Global War on Terror, while protecting American troops and intelligence agents fighting terrorists. It also allows a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) program to interrogate captured terrorists through non-torturous means to continue. Herger made the following statement after House passage of the bill:

"The Military Commissions Act ensures that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed--a principal architect of the 9/11 terrorist attacks--and other captured terrorist leaders will soon face the American people and justice," Herger stated. "It provides a fair but efficient process for prosecuting terrorists, while protecting sensitive intelligence. At long last, key terrorists will be held to account for the crimes they've committed.

"I'm also pleased that the Military Commissions Act clarifies which interrogation techniques are permissible under the Geneva Conventions and U.S. law," continued Herger. "The measure reaffirms our nation's abhorrence of torture, further demonstrating the decency that distinguishes our nation from the terrorists. At the same time, it preserves a CIA program in which appropriate and effective interrogation techniques can bring forth deeply guarded information from terrorists, helping to block plotted attacks and save American lives. This program has already proven extremely valuable, and I'm very pleased it will continue."

The Military Commissions Act establishes a system of military tribunals to try enemy combatants who have engaged in or supported terrorist activities. The act ensures that terrorists have basic legal rights, including the right to counsel, the right to obtain evidence and witnesses, and the right to appeal a guilty verdict. Suspected terrorists have the right to be present at all legal proceedings, and no evidence may be presented to the jury unless it is also provided to the accused terrorist. The Senate is expected to act on a similar measure as early as today, and President Bush has indicated that he will sign it into law.

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!