



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN RON KLEIN
FLORIDA'S 22ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Melissa Silverman, 202-225-3026, C: 202-821-8152

Klein Amendment to Defense Authorization Passes House

Washington, D.C. – An amendment co-authored by U.S. Representative Ron Klein (FL-22) and U.S. Representative John Yarmuth (KY-03) to ensure burden-sharing by the Iraqi government passed the House by voice vote this afternoon. The amendment was considered as part of H.R. 5658, the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Authorization Bill.

Klein and Yarmuth's amendment requires that the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) negotiated between the United States and Iraq next summer include cost-sharing provisions.

"Whether you support the war or not, everyone can agree that after five years and over \$600 billion in taxpayer money spent, enough is enough," Klein said. "The government of Iraq must stand up and take responsibility for rebuilding their own country, and the language included in today's legislation requires them to do just that."

Klein was the first voice in the House of Representatives to call for fiscally responsible change to Iraq funding, and the Klein-Yarmuth amendment is one of several provisions in this legislation which will increase Iraq's share of the financial burden of the war. The Iraq policy provisions in this legislation include linking U.S. spending on reconstruction to reconstruction contributions by the Government of Iraq and prohibiting the use of funds from the Iraqi Security Forces Fund to build infrastructure.

"I am proud to work with my colleague, John Yarmuth, on this issue," Klein said. "As a fellow member of the freshman class, Rep. Yarmuth has stood with us from the start as we called for real change in Iraq funding. The full House of Representatives responded to this call for common-sense, fiscally responsible change, and the result was a real victory for every American taxpayer."

Klein led all 47 of 47 freshman House Democrats in a letter calling for the supplemental spending bill to include language making U.S. funding to Iraq for reconstruction and fuel a loan. The full text of the letter can be found by [clicking here](#).

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