

House Republicans Express Deep Skepticism Toward President's Call for an Escalation in Iraq

Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC): "No one else in this party in Congress is speaking out... We in Congress, we need to seek the truth." [News-Observer, 1/22/07]

Rep. Phil English (R-PA): "There is no evidence that expanding this approach even further would lead to a different result." [AP, 1/10/07]

Rep. James T. Walsh (R-NY): "Depending on the number of Republicans, we can send a message to the president that we stuck with you, thick and thin, but we cannot support this... With enough of them, it will make the president rethink this next step." [CQ, 2/13/07]

Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA): Voting for the resolution is "sending a message to the Iraqis that they better get their act together... A lot of us have our concerns about this deployment." [Washington Post, 2/13/07]

Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI): "I am extremely hesitant to embrace the president's strategy at this point." [New York Times, 1/14/07]

Rep. Ric Keller (R-FL): "We don't need more American troops caught in the crosshairs of a civil war." [New York Times, 1/14/07]

Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC): "People will say, 'Gosh, we can't cut and run. But we've lost 3,000 troops. . . . I don't think that constitutes cutting and running. I think it's time to pass the baton.'" [McClatchy News, 1/10/07]

Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-OH): "Like many Americans, I desperately want America to succeed in Iraq and I would welcome a fresh approach... This isn't a fresh approach. This is more of the same." [Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/11/07]

Rep. Jim Ramstad (R-MN): An escalation in troops "would be counterproductive and perpetuate dependency by Iraqi forces, increase resistance by the Iraqi people, create more targets and stretch our military too thin." [AP, 1/9/07]

Rep. John Duncan, Jr. (R-TN): "I think that this is a desperate attempt to turn around what was an unfortunate policy in the first place. It really sounds just like a continuation of the failed policies of the past four years." [Knoxville News Sentinel, 1/11/07]

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ): "A lot of people are peeling off from supporting the president." [Wall Street Journal, 1/17/07]

Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM): "I also have not seen a clarity of mission, and I think that's the greatest weakness that we have right now. We're talking about goals in lofty terms that are not vital American national interests. American troops should only go in harm's way to protect America's vital interests." [Washington Post, 1/1/07]

Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL): “I think we need to hold the White House's feet to the fire on this issue.” [Orlando Sentinel, 1/11/07]

Rep. John Boozman (R-AR): “One of the objectives is to get our people home, get them back and repositioned out of there and, right now, that doesn't seem to be occurring,” Boozman said. “In that regard, I'd say that we're failing.” [Times Record, 1/10/07]

Rep. John Mica (R-FL): “I'm trying not to second-guess the president, but if I were Monday-morning quarterbacking this, I would be inclined to support (a) proposal to get our troops out of policing and street patrolling and out of the major cities and turn that over to the Iraqis.” [Gannett, 1/10/07]

Rep. Jerry Moran (R-KS): “The American servicemen and women have done all that has been asked of them and I am concerned that, up to this point, we have not seen the Iraqi government and people demonstrate their willingness to stand on their own.” [AP, 1/10/07]

Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA): “I'm very skeptical, I'm very concerned.” [Washington Post, 1/14/07]

House Republicans Send Letter to President Bush, Opposing Troop Escalation:

“We urge you to reject any recommendation for either a short or long term increase in the number of U.S. troops. We are persuaded by all available evidence that an escalation of U.S. troop levels is not the way forward in Iraq.”

Walter Jones

John J. Duncan, Jr.

Wayne T. Gilchrest

Steven C. LaTourette

Phil English

Roscoe G. Bartlett

Ron Paul

Howard Coble

[Letter to the President, 1/4/07]