



DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF REPUBLICANS AND NON-BINDING RESOLUTIONS

Many high profile Republicans have been strong advocates of non-binding resolutions. Minority Leader Boehner and Minority Whip Blunt have called past non-binding resolutions “important.” Rep. Peter Hoekstra, then the Intelligence Chairman, called the debate “urgent” and “defining”, while House Conference Chairman Putnam supported the debate on a non-binding resolution.

WHAT REPUBLICANS HAVE SAID ABOUT NON-BINDING RESOLUTIONS?

Minority Leader Boehner Said Debate Over a Non-Binding Resolution Was “Important.” In June 2006, the House of Representatives debated a non-binding resolution written by the Republican majority. During that debate, Rep. Boehner said, “This week the House has engaged in an important debate on the war in Iraq and how best to combat terrorism in a post-9/11 world.” [Congressional Record, 6/16/06]

Minority Whip Blunt Said Vote on Non-Binding Resolution “Should Not Be Taken Lightly”. In June 2006, the House of Representatives debated a non-binding resolution written by the Republican majority. At the beginning of his remarks, Rep. Blunt said, “Mr. Speaker...I thank you for presiding over this important debate and for the opportunity to address the House as this debate nears its conclusion.” He later stated, “This vote, I know, is not being taken lightly, and believe me, it should not be taken lightly.” [Congressional Record, 6/16/06]

Conference Chair Putnam Supported Past Debate on Non-Binding Resolution. In June 2006, when the House last debated the Iraq war by voting on a non-binding resolution Rep. Putnam said, “I support this resolution. I support the rule that is allowing this resolution to come forward and the manner in which it was created.” [Congressional Record, 6/15/06]

Intelligence Ranking Member Hoekstra Called Debate on Non-Binding Resolution “Urgent” and “Defining.” In June 2006, when the House last debated the Iraq war by voting on a non-binding resolution Rep. Hoekstra said, “Mr. Speaker, this resolution in front of us today is about an urgent proposition...This debate is a defining one for the House and for our Nation.” [Congressional Record, 6/15/06]

DESPITE THEIR RHETORIC, REPUBLICANS HAVE PLAYED GAMES BY WRITING AND BRINGING CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS TO THE HOUSE FLOOR.

The 2006 Hyde Iraq Resolution: In June 2006, then International Relations Committee chairman Henry Hyde sponsored a stay the course Iraq resolution declaring it is not in the U.S. national interest to set an arbitrary withdrawal or redeployment date for U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq. [H. Res. 861, 6/12/06]

The 2005 Hunter Iraq Resolution: In November 2005, then House Armed Services Chairman Duncan Hunter offered a resolution expressing “the sense of the House of Representatives that the deployment of U.S. forces in Iraq be terminated immediately.” [H. Res. 571, 11/18/2005]