



For immediate release: Monday, April 23, 2007

## **Summary of the Fiscal 2007 Supplemental Funding Legislation**

House and Senate conferees have approved legislation providing \$124.2 billion primarily for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, for improving the health care for returning soldiers and veterans, for continued Hurricane Katrina recovery for the Gulf Coast, to fill major gaps in homeland security, and to provide emergency drought relief for farmers.

As part of the legislation, conferees approved a sensible plan to redeploy U.S. forces in Iraq paired with progress made by the Iraqi government in meeting diplomatic and security benchmarks. The legislation, subject to Presidential waiver, would ensure adequate rest between tours of duty of both active duty and Guard and Reserve forces, while also requiring that their service in Iraq not be extended beyond a year for any tour of duty.

President Bush would be required to certify that the Iraqi government is meeting the diplomatic and security benchmarks. If he makes that certification, deployment shall begin no later than October 1, 2007, with the goal of completing the redeployment within 180 days. After that period, a limited number of U.S. forces could remain in Iraq for force protection, training and equipping Iraqi troops, and targeted counterterrorism options. The legislation makes it possible for the U.S. military to focus its resources on Osama bin Laden, whose organization attacked the nation on 9/11, and destroying his base of operations in Afghanistan.

Additionally, the U.S. commander in Iraq would provide regular progress reports to Congress on both the progress of the Iraqi government to take control of that country as well as the status of the redeployment efforts.

Overall, the conference agreement provides:

- More than \$100 billion for the Department of Defense, primarily for continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The legislation includes a \$1 billion increase for the National Guard and Reserve equipment and \$1.1 billion for military housing. The conference report provides \$3 billion (\$1.2 billion more than the President's request) for the purchase of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles (MRAP) -- vehicles designed to withstand roadside bombs.
- More than \$5 billion to ensure that returning troops and veterans receive the health care that they have earned with their service.
- \$6.9 billion for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.
- Emergency funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) totals more than \$650 million.
- Homeland security investments total \$2.25 billion, including funds for port security and mass transit security, for explosives detection equipment at airports, and for several initiatives in the 9/11 bill that recently passed the Senate.
- \$3.5 billion is provided to help relieve the enormous pressure on farmers and ranchers as a result of severe drought and agricultural disasters.
- The conference agreement also includes emergency funding for forest firefighting, low-income home energy assistance, and pandemic flu preparations.