

DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF CONGRESS IS BRINGING REAL CHANGE TO THE WAY BUSINESS IS DONE IN WASHINGTON

For the past six years, Congress has conducted very little oversight of the Bush Administration, contributing to disastrous policies. With Democrats in control, oversight is finally being conducted on important issues. The need for oversight is clear: The recent scandal at Walter Reed, as well as the firings of U.S. Attorneys show that the Republican-controlled Congress completely neglected its responsibility to hold government accountable. Oversight is part of Democrats' efforts to bring real change to Washington.

OVERSIGHT OVERVIEW:

DEMOCRATS HOLD DOZENS OF HEARINGS*:

- **91:** Full committee oversight hearings already held in the 110th Congress
- **81:** Number of oversight hearings on Iraq already held in the 110th Congress (includes full committee and subcommittee hearings)
- **73:** Full committee oversight hearings already planned through the beginning of May; many of these hearings and additional subcommittee hearings are devoted to Iraq and Katrina

DEMOCRATS ADDRESS TOP ISSUES:

- Iraq and Veterans
- Hurricane Katrina
- Climate change
- Challenges facing middle class families

➤ PATTERN OF NEGLECT AT WALTER REED, VETERANS HOSPITALS

- Reports on poor conditions at Walter Reed extend back to February 2005; Congressional Republicans did nothing in response. [Center for American Progress]
- Lt. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, the head of Walter Reed from 2002 to 2004, knew for years about the horrid conditions at the facility, but remained “indifferent to concerns” and said that the problems “weren’t serious and there weren’t a lot of them.” [Washington Post, 3/5/07]
- The prospect of privatization at Walter Reed led to a large exodus of skilled personnel after the Army reversed results of an audit concluding that government employees could do the job more cheaply. [NY Times, 3/5/07]
- The problems at Walter Reed are not unique to the Army Hospital; in fact, there is evidence of substandard, underfunded care in VA Hospitals across the nation. [Washington Post, 3/5/07]
- House Democrats have already begun oversight into the scandal at Walter Reed: the Oversight and Government Reform Committee had a hearing Monday morning, and other committees are following with more hearings this week.

➤ PLAYING POLITICS WITH JUSTICE

- The Bush Administration fired 7 U.S. Attorneys last December and one in June, most of whom were involved in public corruption cases.
- Political pressure has no place in our justice system, and House Committees have already begun oversight hearings: on Tuesday, March 6th, the House and Senate are hearing testimony from 6 of the 8 U.S. Attorneys.

** Includes hearings through March 2.*

Prepared by the Office of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 3/6/07