

# It's Time for a New Direction in Iraq.

The Leadership in the House of Representatives has embarked upon a new direction for Iraq, centered on achievable goals and objectives for the war-torn country, increased support for our troops, and improved quality of care for our veterans.

In March I voted for the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act (H.R.1591), often called the "Iraq supplemental." This legislation provides our troops with the equipment they need, requires Iraqis to take responsibility for their own country, helps fight the war on terror, and establishes a responsible strategy for the redeployment of U.S. troops. The bill also refocuses the war on terror against Al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden in Afghanistan.

The legislation gives the President every penny he requested for our troops in Iraq, however, it requires accountability. It requires the Iraqi government to meet the President's own benchmarks he laid out in January and the troops to meet the President's own standards for readiness.

I also voted for this critical piece of legislation because it provides the following, sorely needed funds to bolster military needs and veterans' health care here at home:

- \$2.5 billion more for improving readiness of our stateside troops
- \$1.7 billion more for military health care
- \$1.7 billion more for veterans' health care



U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz met with wounded soldiers and Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Leggett at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to discuss the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On a recent visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, I saw that our soldiers are counting on us to provide essential services for them when they return home. WE CANNOT LET THESE HEROES DOWN.

A recent report from the non-partisan Congressional Research Service (3/28/07) concludes that the Army could maintain its wartime operations well into July with funds the Army has already been provided.

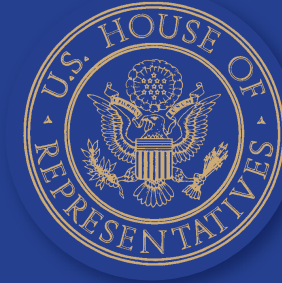
As of April 16, it has been 70 days since the President requested supplemental war funding from Congress. In 2006, it took the then Republican-controlled Congress 119 days to return the Iraq supplemental to the President, and yet the President didn't criticize Congress for "holding up" funding for the troops.

I believe we are responsible for providing a common defense, which includes vigorous debate, informed discussion, and responsible public policy.

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Official Business

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## News from U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz

### Proudly representing Florida's 20th Congressional District

Dear Friends:

We began 2007 with new leadership in Congress and a renewed commitment to take our country in a New Direction; to create the change we so desperately need.

Looking back on the first 100 days of this year's legislative session, I am pleased to say we are off to a great start.

We opened the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress with a commitment to foster cooperation, consensus and compromise to meet the challenges facing America's working families.

I am proud of the results.

Inside you will find some of the actions we took during the first 100 days to make America safer and stronger for the future. I have also outlined my concerns with the President's strategy of escalating the War in Iraq and why I voted to approve the H.R. 1591, commonly referred to as the Iraq War supplemental spending bill.

Your questions, thoughts, and concerns are important to me. Please do not hesitate to let me know of any problems or issues you consider significant by contacting me at one of my offices listed below.

Sincerely,  
*Debbie*

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On the Web: <http://www.house.gov/wassermanschultz>  
Visit here to sign up for e-mail updates.

## Debbie Wasserman Schultz Chosen to Serve on Powerful House Committee on Appropriations.



In 2006 Rep. Wasserman Schultz was asked to testify at the Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearings on Supreme Court Justice Alito.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz has been appointed as a member of the House Committee that helps set America's funding decisions.

She considers it a great honor and responsibility and is looking forward to the opportunities her new post will provide for the people of Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

She is also looking forward to working closely with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Committee Chairman David Obey to reform the appropriations process and open it to public scrutiny.

In making the appointment, Speaker Pelosi said, "Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz has already proven herself to be a leader in the Democratic Caucus and highly-respected by all our colleagues. She will continue to serve the best interests of her constituents.

## Debbie's First Term Accomplishments.

Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz's first term was marked with remarkable achievements for a freshman Member. She was one of the key leaders in the Terri Schiavo debate, challenging President Bush and arguing forcefully that the courts had ruled in this case on multiple occasions and Congress would set a dangerous, and likely unconstitutional, precedent if the Legislative Branch attempted to circumvent the courts' decisions in this personal family matter.

She introduced a resolution, passed unanimously by the House of Representatives, calling on the President to declare a Jewish American Heritage Month. The President subsequently did so, with the inaugural month in May, 2006.

Debbie also introduced key amendments to legislation, that passed, protecting children from sexual predators (H.R. 4472 and H.R. 5005). In addition, her legislation ( H.R. 3639) outlawing discrimination by life insurance companies against those who want to travel to countries such as Israel, Colombia and Kenya passed the House of Representatives, however, failed to pass the Senate.



At a 2006 press conference with former Secretary of State James Baker and his daughter-in-law Nancy Baker, Rep. Wasserman Schultz announced her pool and spa safety legislation to help prevent accidental childhood drowning. Nancy lost her daughter Graeme in 2002 to an entrapment drowning.

### Protecting women and children

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz supported and co-sponsored a number of bills to provide for and protect women's health and reproductive rights. She also fought to ensure that children receive a healthy start by passing an amendment to require food warning labels on foods containing high levels of methyl mercury.

### Chief Deputy Whip

Based in part on her successes during her first term, House Majority Whip James Clyburn of South Carolina selected and Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California appointed her to serve as a Chief Deputy Whip.

## Debbie Wasserman Schultz: helping move ahead the 100 Hour Agenda

Debbie Wasserman Schultz is working with the new majority in Congress to take our country in a New Direction.

That started with the 100 Hour Agenda, a series of bills adopted during the first few days of the new session to start work on bringing about the changes we need so desperately.



### With Debbie's support, the House passed the following items during the opening days of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress:



Honest Leadership and Open Government legislation –banning lobbyist funded gifts and travel, and opening the legislative process to allow participation by the minority.



Legislation bringing Fiscal Responsibility by mandating PAY-GO budgeting, and Fiscal Transparency, meaning Congress will require members to identify their earmarks and that we don't spend more than what we are bringing in.



Legislation saying that we're going to implement the 9/11 Commission's recommendations to improve aviation and port security, border security and infrastructure security.



Legislation raising the Minimum Wage for 13 million Americans.



Legislation to increase the number of stem cell lines so that American scientists can work on life saving medical research here at home.



Legislation to cut the interest rates in half on student loans for over 5 million students.



Legislation requiring Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for millions of seniors.



Legislation that rolls back federal subsidies for Big Oil companies and instead invest that money in alternative energy that would reduce America's dependence on foreign oil.

And that was just legislation passed in the first 100 HOURS of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. We are also providing Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch. For example: We've held over 120 hearings relating to the War in Iraq.