

RESOLUTION

Urging the U.S. Congress to establish a timetable for the orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq as soon as possible and to pass legislation prohibiting the President from spending taxpayer dollars on military operations in Iraq or against Iran without first seeking Congressional approval.

WHEREAS, the United States has been engaged in a war in Iraq for more than four years.

WHEREAS, U.S. involvement in Iraq has resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,400 U.S. soldiers, including 145 soldiers from Ohio, and the wounding and disabling of more than 24,314 U. S. military personnel to date.

WHEREAS, the war will further necessitate extending National Guard tours in Iraq. The costs to the states of the call-up of National Guard members for deployment in Iraq have been significant, as reckoned in lost lives, combat injuries and psychic trauma, disruption of family life, financial hardship for individuals, families and businesses, interruption of careers and damage to the fabric of civic life in our communities, including natural disaster recovery.

WHEREAS, the American troops have valiantly upheld their duty in Iraq under dire circumstances.

WHEREAS, more than \$426 billion has been appropriated by Congress to fund military operations and reconstruction in Iraq to date-money that could fund desperately needed education, health care, housing, nutrition and other social services in our communities in the United States or humanitarian assistance abroad.

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County's share in that is nearly \$400 million toward costs associated with the war in Iraq; further, the cost to Ohioans is nearly \$15 billion.

WHEREAS, previous budgets that have prioritized Iraq have led to cuts in critical block grants for states and have increased the federal debt, which compounded by interest payments, will likely lead to even larger cuts in funding for critical needs in the States.

WHEREAS, legal experts on all sides have determined that Congress has not only broad authority but a long tradition of limiting escalation or forcing redeployment of troops through the Constitutionally designated power of the purse.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, on behalf of its citizens, urges the United States to continue funding operations in Iraq only insofar as a timetable for the orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq begin as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress should pass legislation prohibiting the President from spending taxpayer dollars on any new escalation in Iraq, expansion of the conflict beyond Iraqi borders, or military operations against Iran, unless the President first seeks Congressional approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit one copy of this resolution to George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Congressional delegation of Ohio and the United States Congress.

On Motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Dimora, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Jones, Dimora, Hagan.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,
Clerk of the Board**

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