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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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~~Chairman~~ *RISING REPUBLICAN*

Rush and Kit

The Iraq funding bill that the democrats passed last night includes one of the most devastating provisions ever passed during a military conflict.

Page four of the bill states "none of the funds ...may be used to deploy any unit to Iraq unless the President has certified in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services ...at least 15 days in advance of the deployment that the unit is "fully mission capable".

Today, our military operations in Iraq involve dozens of "units" moving across the Iraq border every 24 hours. These units may be aircraft called from aircraft carriers off the coast, or the airbase at Incirlik, Turkey, or special forces, Seal or Ranger teams, or special explosives teams or any of a number of other specialized reaction forces.

Thus, the democrat "notify and wait for 15 days" provision will, should it become law, endanger our troops in Iraq by prohibiting supportive or re-inforcing units from coming to their aid in a timely fashion.

In this war against terrorism, targets are acquired which present only small windows of opportunity, sometimes involving minutes and some involving hours. For the democrat leadership to require a fifteen day waiting period for reaction forces is a remarkable disservice to every American in Iraq.

Attached is the actual language of the bill, passed last night by a vote of 218 to 203. (214 dems and 4 rep. for and 188 reps and 15 dems against)


Duncan Hunter

1 SEC. 104. (a) The Congress finds that United States
2 military units should not enter into combat unless they
3 are fully capable of performing their assigned mission. The
4 Congress further finds that this is the policy of the De-
5 partment of Defense.

6 (b) ~~None~~ of the funds appropriated or otherwise
7 made available by this Act may be used to deploy any unit
8 of the Armed Forces to Iraq unless the President has cer-
9 tified in writing to the Committees on Appropriations and
10 the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the
11 House of Representatives at least 15 days in advance of
12 the deployment that the unit is "fully mission capable".

13 (c) For the purposes of subsection (b) the term "fully
14 mission capable" means capable of performing a unit's as-
15 signed mission to the prescribed standards under the con-
16 ditions expected in the theater of operation, consistent
17 with the guidelines set forth in the Department of De-
18 fense's Defense Readiness Reporting System.

19 (d) The President, by certifying in writing to the
20 Committees on Appropriations and the Committees on
21 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Represent-
22 atives that the deployment to Iraq of a unit that is not
23 assessed fully mission capable is required for reasons of
24 national security and by submitting along with a certifi-
25 cation a report in classified and unclassified form detailing