

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 2

Expressing the bipartisan resolution on Iraq.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 17, 2007

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the bipartisan resolution on Iraq.

Whereas the United States strategy and presence on the ground in Iraq can only be sustained with the support of the American people and bipartisan support from Congress;

Whereas maximizing chances of success in Iraq should be our goal, and the best chance of success requires a change in current strategy;

Whereas the situation in Iraq is damaging the standing, influence, and interests of the United States in Iraq, the Middle East, and around the world;

Whereas more than 137,000 United States military personnel are bravely and honorably serving in Iraq and deserve the support of all Americans;

Whereas more than 3,000 United States military personnel have already lost their lives in Iraq, and more than 22,500 have been wounded in Iraq;

Whereas on January 10, 2007, President George W. Bush announced his plan to deepen the United States military involvement in Iraq by deploying approximately 21,000 additional United States combat forces to Iraq;

Whereas Iraq is witnessing widening sectarian and intra-sectarian violence;

Whereas Iraqis must reach a political settlement if there is going to be a reconciliation in Iraq, and the failure of the Iraqis to achieve such a settlement has led to the increase in violence in Iraq;

Whereas Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki stated on November 27, 2006, that “[t]he crisis is political, and the ones who can stop the cycle of aggravation and blood-letting of innocents are the politicians.”;

Whereas an open-ended commitment of United States forces in Iraq is unsustainable and a deterrent to the Iraqis making the political compromises and providing the personnel and resources that are needed for violence to end and for stability and security to be achieved in Iraq;

Whereas the responsibility for internal security and halting sectarian violence in Iraq must rest primarily with the Government of Iraq and Iraqi security forces;

Whereas there have been repeated promises by the Government of Iraq to assume a greater share of security responsibilities, disband militias, consider amendments to the Iraq constitution, enact laws to reconcile sectarian differences, and improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people, but those promises have not been kept;

Whereas a successful strategy in Iraq is dependent upon the Iraqi leaders fulfilling their promises;

Whereas the commander of the United States Central Command, General John Abizaid, testified to Congress on November 15, 2006, that “[i]t’s easy for the Iraqis to rely upon us to do this work. I believe that more American forces prevent the Iraqis from taking more responsibility for their own future”;

Whereas the Iraq Study Group suggested a comprehensive strategy to “enable the United States to begin to move its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly” based on “new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region”;

Whereas the United States Army and Marine Corps, including their Reserves and the Army National Guard, their personnel, and their families, are under enormous strain from multiple, extended deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the majority of nondeployed Army and Marine Corps units are no longer combat ready due to a lack of equipment and insufficient time to train; and

Whereas the United States strategy in Iraq must not compromise the ability of the United States to address other vital national security priorities, in particular global terror networks, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional stability in the Middle East, the nuclear program of Iran, the nuclear weapons of North Korea, and stability and security in Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) it is not in the national interest of the
2 United States to deepen its military involvement in
3 Iraq, particularly by escalating the United States
4 military force presence in Iraq;

5 (2) the primary objective of United States
6 strategy in Iraq should be to have the Iraqi political
7 leaders make the political compromises necessary to
8 end the violence in Iraq;

9 (3) greater concerted regional, and inter-
10 national support would assist the Iraqis in achieving
11 a political solution and national reconciliation;

12 (4) main elements of the mission of United
13 States forces in Iraq should transition to helping en-
14 sure the territorial integrity of Iraq, conduct
15 counterterrorism activities, reduce regional inter-
16 ference in the internal affairs of Iraq, and accelerate
17 training of Iraqi troops;

18 (5) the United States should transfer, under an
19 appropriately expedited timeline, responsibility for
20 internal security and halting sectarian violence in
21 Iraq to the Government of Iraq and Iraqi security
22 forces; and

23 (6) the United States should engage nations in
24 the Middle East to develop a regional, internation-

- 1 ally-sponsored peace and reconciliation process for
- 2 Iraq.

