

## **Congressional Iraq STEP Resolution Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace**

**Whereas** President George W. Bush stated on April 13, 2004 that “as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America” and that the U.S. will remain in Iraq “as long as necessary and not one day more”;

**Whereas** Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assured the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 17, 2005, that “we have no intention, at the present time, of putting permanent bases in Iraq”;

**Whereas** Zalmay Khalilzad, President Bush’s nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, stated on June 7, 2005, that “I know from President Bush, I know from our other senior officials, that there is no U.S. plan for permanent military bases in Iraq”;

**Whereas** the Wall Street Journal reported in February 2005 that 60% of the people in the United States think that the Bush administration should set a public or private timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq;

**Whereas** former Secretary of State James Baker, former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, the International Crisis Group, and other respected leaders and analysts have said that it is critical that the U.S. government declare now its intention to fully withdraw from Iraq;

**Whereas** the perception that the U.S. intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity;

**Whereas** many insurgent groups have expressed a willingness to engage in political dialogue if the U.S. clearly states its intention to withdraw from Iraq;

**Whereas** we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country;

**Whereas** a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases does not imply the setting of a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy;

**Whereas** such a statement would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that it is the sense of the Congress that the United States supports the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, the people of Iraq, and the leaders of Iraq’s government;

**Be it also resolved that** the people of the United States support the Iraqi people’s desire to rebuild Iraq as a fully sovereign, stable, and peaceful democratic country;

**To this end, be it resolved that it is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military troops and bases from Iraq.**



**Friends Committee on National Legislation**

**245 Second Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 \***

**(202) 547-6000 \* (800) 630-1330 \* [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)**

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