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November 18, 2005

Tim Carpenter
National Director
Progressive Democrats of America

Dear Mr. Carpenter,

I very much enjoyed meeting you at the forum on the war in Iraq held last weekend in Montague, Massachusetts.

As I described at the forum, I have introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 4232, the End the War in Iraq Act, which would terminate funding now for the deployment of U.S. troops in Iraq. The bill does provide funding for the safe and orderly withdrawal of our uniformed men and women from Iraq, as well as the financing and equipping of Iraqi security forces and for an international transitional security force(s). Because it terminates all defense spending in Iraq, the bill would also prohibit the use of U.S. funds for the construction of military bases in Iraq. Finally, the legislation specifically states that nothing in the bill prohibits U.S. funding for Iraq's social and economic recovery and reconstruction. The bottom line, however, is that U.S. troops could no longer be in Iraq.

Fourteen of my House colleagues have joined me as cosponsors of this legislation, and I am currently actively seeking additional cosponsors. I feel that the recent announcement by Congressman John Murtha (D-PA), the Ranking Democrat on the House Subcommittee for Defense Appropriations, that he, too, supports the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq indicates that H.R. 4232 represents the mainstream position within the Democratic Party and the American people.

I hope other states and communities will follow Massachusetts' example and hold forums on the war in Iraq, similar to the one held in Montague, MA, where I spoke. It's important to realize that much of the shift in opinion on the war is a direct result of grassroots efforts – and these efforts need to continue. If there is anything I can do to encourage this happening, please let me know how I can help.

Sincerely,



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress