

## Castle Pushes Bipartisan Plan to End Conflict in Iraq -- June 6, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware

Congressman Mike Castle, along with 44 other Members, today introduced the Iraq Study Group Recommendations Implementation

Act which will employ the major policy recommendations offered by the Iraq Study Group (ISG) in order to help bring an end to the conflict in Iraq. The widely-supported bipartisan bill provides an important opportunity to come together and move beyond the current lack of consensus regarding U.S. strategy in Iraq.

Rep Castle has been an outspoken supporter of the Group's report and believes this bipartisan legislation is needed to chart a new way forward by establishing a clear United States policy for stability in Iraq.

"For a long

time now Democrats and Republicans in Congress have been talking about the need to work together when it comes to Iraq.

The legislation we introduced this week is the first truly bipartisan proposal for stabilizing Iraq and bringing our men and women home. I am supporting this bill because congressional consideration of the Iraq Study Group's recommendations is long overdue. Rather than continuing to make this a partisan fight, I am hopeful that the Democratic leadership will join our bipartisan group in supporting this constructive blueprint for stability in Iraq at the earliest date possible."

The Iraq Study Group was created in March 2006 at the request of a bipartisan group of members of Congress; in December 2006, the ISG released its recommendations and outlined a bipartisan approach to bringing a responsible conclusion to the Iraq war. Identical bipartisan legislation will be introduced in the Senate today by Senators Ken Salazar (D-CO) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN).

Key provisions of the Iraq Study Group Recommendations Implementation Act:

- Provides a new diplomatic offensive in the region that includes the creation of the Iraq International Support Group.
  
- Gives the highest priority to training, equipping and advising the Iraqi military and security forces.
  
- Assesses the full budgetary and personnel impact of the war in Iraq on the U.S. military.
  
- Accelerates and increases oil production and accountability including equitable distribution of oil revenues in Iraq.

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Implements  
and provides oversight of economic reconstruction programs in Iraq with the  
creation of a new Senior Advisor for Economic Reconstruction.

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Ensures that  
the President includes the cost of the war in his annual budget request.

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Sets  
conditions that could lead to redeployment of U.S. combat brigades not needed  
for force protection as early as the first quarter of 2008 if diplomatic,  
infrastructure and security benchmarks are met.

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