



# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

For immediate release: Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Contact: Tom Gavin, 202-224-3904

## **Reaction to the Bush Speech on War Funding**

WASHINGTON, D.C.... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., issued the following statement after President Bush's speech critical of the supplemental funding legislation currently pending before the Senate. Byrd is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the chief architect of the Senate's version of the funding bill. His statement is below.

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"President Bush wants to run his war his way, without anyone asking any questions or requiring any standards for progress. This President doesn't understand that his go-it-alone, myopic approach to the war in Iraq is not working. He doesn't understand that the American people are tired of sending our troops to Iraq with no thought of how to bring them home for good. And he clearly doesn't understand that it is the Congress, not a president, which has the power of the purse. President Bush can sign or veto this bill, but he cannot dictate to Congress.

"The American people want our troops out of Iraq. The Congress has said very clearly that we want our military to refocus on Osama bin Laden and his terrorist bases in Afghanistan. I hope that the President will drop his tired rhetoric and instead work with Congress to craft a responsible plan to transition our forces from Iraq and refocus on bin Laden and his base of operations.

"The troops are not going to run out of funding. The Congress, on a bipartisan basis, will approve more than \$96 billion for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. The Congress, on a bipartisan basis, will approve funding to improve the health care of our troops and our veterans. The Congress, on a bipartisan basis, will approve funding to speed long-delayed Hurricane Katrina reconstruction. The Congress, on a bipartisan basis, will approve funding to close the major gaps in our homeland security that could be exploited at any moment.

"Instead of demonizing the Congress and clinging to same old finger-pointing rhetoric, the President ought to work with Congress -- the people's representatives -- to craft legislation that is in the best interests of the country."

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