



# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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## **President Bush Continues to Ignore Will of the American People**

WASHINGTON, D.C.... When it comes to the military efforts in Iraq, President Bush continues to turn his back to the demands of the American people that U.S. forces begin to leave Iraq and focus instead on capturing Osama bin Laden, U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said.

Byrd, the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, will lead the Congressional work to craft a final funding package that provides nearly \$100 billion for U.S. troops, strengthen medical care for returning soldiers and veterans, and make significant progress toward rebuilding America's Gulf Coast.

Byrd's statement in reaction to the President's news conference today is below.

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"For the President to claim that the Congress is placing troops in jeopardy is partisan hogwash. This tripe comes on the very day that the White House unveils its plan to rush thousands of troops back to Iraq for yet another tour of duty there, without sufficient time for rest, recovery, and retraining. Congress is not placing our troops at risk; this kind of stress and strain is.

"Congress will not cut funds for our troops. Congress will provide nearly \$100 billion for our women and men in uniform. We will provide body armor and specialized armored vehicles, which the Administration has not done. We will strengthen and improve the health care for our troops and our veterans, which the Administration has not done. And Congress will listen to the American people, and craft a responsible framework for the Iraqis to take control of their own nation. If the President can spend \$38 billion to rebuild Baghdad, is it not right that we also spend \$6.7 billion to rebuild America's Gulf Coast still devastated from hurricanes, or more than \$3 billion to provide first-class care for our wounded troops?

"I hope that the White House will put a little more effort toward responding to the will of this country and a little less toward the tired scare-and-dare rhetoric that seems to flow so naturally from the Administration."

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