



## U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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### **Statement by Senator Robert C. Byrd**

WASHINGTON, D.C.... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today repeated his call for President Bush to drop his veto rhetoric. After the President's news conference on Friday, Byrd issued the following statement.

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The President's stay the course plan simply hasn't worked, and I have serious doubts that it ever will. To see success in Iraq, there has to be a new dynamic. The Iraqi government must step up and take greater responsibility for peace and security in their own country. The United States cannot do this alone.

I urge the President to take off the blinders and see the wisdom of this plan. We do not mandate a timetable for ending U.S. involvement in Iraq, but we do provide a new way forward. We do not demand an immediate withdrawal of our forces, but we do expect a fresh approach and an energized effort from the Iraqis themselves. We do not micromanage the occupation in Iraq, but we do require a responsible economic and diplomatic plan that brings the sectarian factions together instead of driving them further apart.

For the last four years, stay the course hasn't worked, and it will not work. Congress plan offers a way forward for the Iraqi people and a way home for the U.S. troops.

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