



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

For immediate release: Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Contact: Byrd Press Office, 202-224-3904

CHAIRMAN BYRD REJECTS BLANK CHECK FOR IRAQ

Washington, DC... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D.W.Va., Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, delivered the following statement today in opposition to an amendment proposed by U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, D-Alaska, that would have added \$70 billion in new funding to the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with no strings attached. The amendment failed 10-9.

Senator Byrd's statement is below

Mr. Chairman,

This amendment would send to the President additional funding for his horrible, misguided war in Iraq, without any Congressional direction that he change course . no strings attached.

That would be a tragic mistake.

The vast majority of Americans are pleading to Congress for a change in direction in Iraq. Americans would rightfully hold Congress accountable for such a mistake . no more blank checks for war funding.

I have crafted legislation that will provide the funding our troops need while at the same time sending a clear message to the President that we must transition the mission in Iraq to encourage Iraqis to take a much greater role in securing their future.

It is my hope that such legislation will be debated in the House and Senate very soon. Therefore I urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

###