

Congressman Rothman Votes to Fund Responsible End to Iraq War

(Washington, DC) – Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) voted for the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009. The Supplemental helps fund an end to the Iraq War and invests in diplomacy and economic development. At the same time it refocuses the fight against Al Qaeda and other terrorists using Pakistan and Afghanistan as their worldwide command and control center for the direction of attacks on Americans and America. The bill will also help better prepare the United States for pandemic flu. The Congressman issued the following statement about his vote:

“In the past, I voted against the Iraq War Supplemental Funding Bills because we should not have funded ongoing operations in Iraq without an end in sight for the withdrawal of United States forces.

“I am voting “yes” today because this bill funds the withdrawal of our troops from Iraq and begins the end of that war. As President Obama promised during his campaign, and as I and my Democratic colleagues in Congress have been advocating for years, we are working to withdraw from Iraq and refocus on Al Qaeda and Taliban activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan that threaten the United States. President Obama has pledged that this is the final war supplemental. His commitment is that all funding for ongoing military operations will be included in the budgets the President sends to Congress and the bills we develop in the Appropriations Committee. I am hopeful that our heightened focus on Al Qaeda and the Taliban will hasten the day we can safely remove our troops from Afghanistan as well.

“In order to ensure that we have a sound and responsible policy in Afghanistan, I am the proud, original co-sponsor of H.R. 2404, a bill introduced by Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), which would require the Department of Defense to develop a clear exit strategy for our operations there.”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2009

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