

RESOLUTION TO END THE UNITED STATES OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

Submitted by the National Affairs Standing Committee

WHEREAS, The Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) supports with gratitude the brave men and women deployed in Iraq and honors the memory of those who have lost their lives and the families who have lost their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, The justifications for the invasion of Iraq have proven to be completely unfounded; and

WHEREAS, The invasion and occupation of Iraq diverts military reserve forces that should be protecting us at home; squanders national treasure away from domestic needs such as education, health care, alternative energy development, and homeland security; contributes to staggering national deficits and debt; and threatens the rule of law and civil liberties at home; and

WHEREAS, The invasion and occupation of Iraq violates international law and just-war criteria; shreds international alliances that prevailed through two world wars and a cold war; undermines the foundations of international security established since WW II; destabilizes the Middle East; fuels rather than deters worldwide terrorism; undercuts cooperative international intelligence gathering and law enforcement efforts against terrorism; establishes a dangerous precedent for preemptive war condemned at Nuremberg and contrary to International Law enshrined in Articles 2 and 51 of the United Nations (UN) Charter, the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact, and the Hague Conventions on Warfare; increases oil prices and uncertainty in the global marketplace; and diminishes our nation's credibility, prestige, and influence in the world; and

WHEREAS, United States (US), Iraqi, and other families have paid a heavy price for the US involvement in Iraq with the deaths more than 3,780 US troops; the wounding and disabling of more than 27,840 US military personnel; the deaths of over 650,000 Iraqi civilians; the internal displacement of over 2 million Iraqis; the external displacement of over 2.5 million Iraqi refugees; and the deaths of hundreds of non-US troops, journalists, and contractors; and

WHEREAS, Columbia University professor and Nobel Prize winner in economics Joseph E. Stiglitz and Harvard budget expert Linda Bilmes have calculated that the real cost to the US of the Iraq war and occupation is likely to be between US\$1 trillion and US\$ 2 trillion, and American families are bearing these costs; and

WHEREAS, The war and continued occupation have resulted in the devastation of Iraq's physical and social infrastructure and led to widespread resistance to the US occupation that continuously threatens the lives of US and other occupying troops as well as Iraqi civilians; and

WHEREAS, The presence of US forces in Iraq and the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and other facilities have inflamed anti-American passions and increased the terrorist threat to US citizens, both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, The civilian leadership at the Department of Defense has failed to adequately support US armed forces in Iraq, who were not trained to carry out an occupation, and

WHEREAS, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other high-ranking Iraqi Government officials, as well as leaders from the Sunni, Shiite, and Kurdish communities in Iraq, have called for a timetable for the withdrawal of US armed forces from Iraq, and

WHEREAS, US military commanders in Iraq have repeatedly stated that there is no military solution to the turmoil in Iraq, and

WHEREAS, Polls reveal that over 80% of Iraqis are strongly opposed to the presence of US troops, and

WHEREAS, The American people voted for a change in US Iraq policy in favor of military disengagement in the November 2006 elections, and current polls reveal that nearly two-thirds of the American people are against the occupation; then

BE IT RESOLVED, that on 26 September 2007, FCDC urges the US government to:

1. Commence an orderly and rapid withdrawal of US military personnel and all security forces under contract or subcontract with the US Government and working in Iraq, as expeditiously as possible, and
2. Prohibit use of funds to continue deployment of armed forces in Iraq and prohibit permanent military installations in Iraq, and
3. Guarantee health care for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and other conflicts, and
4. Repeal *The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002* (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note), and
5. Provide US assistance for social and economic reconstruction and reconciliation in Iraq, and
6. Pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy. Facilitate and support international efforts to promote Iraq's peaceful transition to full sovereignty, in consultation with the government of Iraq, and enlist the participation of regional neighbors, including Iran and Syria, relevant organizations including the UN; the Arab League; the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and others to:
 - a. Convene a regional peace conference to negotiate a cease-fire among resistance groups in Iraq; and
 - b. Constitute, deploy, and fund a Pan Arabian stabilization force to Iraq to enhance public security in Iraq after the withdrawal of US armed forces; and
 - c. Facilitate and contribute to Iraqi social and economic reconstruction and reconciliation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that FCDC urges the US government to redirect the financial resources used to prosecute the occupation of Iraq to address the urgent domestic needs of America, including health, education, alternative energy development, and homeland security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that FCDC will send a copy of this resolution to President George W. Bush; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi; Congressmen Jim Moran, Frank Wolf, and Tom Davis; Senators Jim Webb and John Warner; and the media.