

Iowa legislators who voted for the war should be targeted by the peace movement

David Goodner

May 25th, 2007 12:59 PM



In a vote of 80-14 in the U.S. Senate and 280-142 in the House of Representatives, Congress passed the Supplemental Spending Act to continue the war in Iraq, [according to the Associated Press](#).

In Iowa, representatives voted as follows:

U.S. Senate:

Tom Harkin (D): yes

Chuck Grassley (R): yes

House of Representatives:

Leonard Boswell (D): yes

Bruce Braley (D): no

Steve King (R): yes

Tom Latham (R): yes

David Loebsack (D): no

Presidential candidates Barack Obama (D-IL) and Hillary Clinton (D-NY) also voted against the bill.

The Iowa peace movement should spend the summer lobbying the Iowa legislators who voted for the supplemental spending bill.

Senators Grassley and Harkin in particular have opened themselves up to a range of political consequences like sit-in occupations and other nonviolent direct actions.

Braley and Loebsack should be praised for their votes, but antiwar activists must demand that they press harder and faster for a full withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Congress is expected to debate more war funding bills next September. Peacemakers need to keep the pressure on.

Cutting off funding for the occupation, revoking the 2002 authorization to go to war, and impeachment should be considered primary goals.

Secondary goals should include:

- creating a U.S. Department of Peace;
- closing Guantanamo Bay, the School of the Americas, Fort Huachuca, and Offutt Air Force Base;
- and reducing the Pentagon budget by a minimum of 15 percent to reinvest in education and health care, [as proposed by Iowans for Sensible Priorities](#).

Related headlines:

"Democratic Spin Won't End the War in Iraq", [by John Stauber the Center for Media and Democracy](#)

"We gave them our hearts, they gave him a blank check", [by David Sirota at the WorkingForChange blog](#)

"Are Democrats Afraid to Cut War Funding, or Pretending to Be Afraid", [by Robert Naiman for Commondreams.org](#)

"Feingold, Kucinich Denounce the Democratic Cave", [by Matthew Rothschild at the Progressive](#)

"The Antiwar Principle" [by David Bromwich for the Huffington Post](#)

"A Big Mistake Vote Gives Bush His Iraq Money", [by John Nichols for the Nation](#)