

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**PRESS RELEASE**

February 15, 2007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HIRONO SUPPORTS CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION  
OPPOSING IRAQ ESCALATION  
Accuses Bush Administration of Failing to Meet Obligations to Veterans**

**Washington D.C.** –Calling the war in Iraq “the moral issue of the day,”

Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono today spoke in favor of a resolution opposing the Bush administration’s plan to send more troops to Iraq.

“This body must go on record in unified and solid opposition to the escalation of the war and in complete support of our soldiers and our veterans,”

Congresswoman Hirono said in a speech delivered in the U.S. House of Representatives. “We must be resolute in our efforts to bring an end to this quagmire.”

The House is expected to vote tomorrow following lengthy floor debate on the resolution.

“The war in Iraq is the moral issue of the day and like all great moral issues, there are heart-felt disagreements on both sides of the aisle,” Congresswoman

Hirono said. "But every second, minute and hour that passes, lives are being lost in Iraq and devastation continues with no end in sight."

She pointed to the testimony of several House colleagues who are veterans, and have spoken eloquently about the thousands of soldiers "who emerged from firefights or attacks physically unscathed but with substantial emotional damage."

Hirono said the Veteran's Administration has been deprived of the critical funds necessary to rehabilitate those suffering from psychological harm.

"The president, who continues to send more and more troops into the war, on one hand, has sought to reduce spending for medical services for these same troops, on the other. His budget reduces spending for VA over the next three years."

She said other agencies are also being cut but the escalating war costs continue to add to our national debt. "The interest on our debt alone is more than we devote to the education of our children, care of our veterans and for the administration of justice, combined."

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