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Klein Calls For “Strategic Shift” After Petraeus, Crocker Hearing

Washington, D.C. – *U.S. Representative Ron Klein (FL-22), a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, issued the following statement following today’s committee hearing with Army General David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker.*

“It is time for a strategic shift when it comes to our Iraq policy. General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker are honorable public servants, but today before our committee, they continued to advocate a strategy of more of the same - more troops, more money, more time – when the American people are ready for a change.

“Families here at home are facing tough economic times, yet we continue to spend \$339 million every day reconstructing Iraq. That is a tremendous amount of money that we could be using to address urgent domestic priorities, from health care to education.

“The war in Iraq is also distracting us from the real war on terrorism and the critical fight for Afghanistan. We must not lose sight of our most important responsibility – keeping this country safe.

“This war has cost our country more than 4,000 brave young men and women. Yet despite America’s sacrifice in blood and treasure, the Iraqi government has yet to make any real political progress and is failing to provide basic services for its citizens. As a result, I have to conclude that more of the same strategy, as the General and the Ambassador suggested today, and President Bush has advocated all along, is not the answer.”

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