

United States Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 9, 2007

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We are writing to urge you to call the House back into session immediately so that Congress can finish its work on the emergency legislation to fund the Global War on Terrorism. This funding request has been pending since February 5, but your leadership team chose to leave town for more than two weeks rather than completing this bill. As a result, our troops have been put at risk.

We are especially troubled by the House's failure to appoint conferees. The Senate appointed conferees on March 29, moments after passing its bill, but the House never did so despite passing the bill a week earlier. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told the Senate that he hoped the House-Senate conference would begin on March 30. That hoped-for progress has been thwarted by your failure to act.

It should go without saying that our military leaders are in the best position to know the needs of our troops, and they have left no doubt that this funding is needed urgently. General Peter Schoomaker, United States Army Chief of Staff, has written that, "without approval of the supplemental funds in April, we will be forced to take increasingly draconian measures which will impact Army readiness and impose hardships on our Soldiers and their families." Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has also emphasized the dangers of delay: "This kind of disruption to key programs will have a genuinely adverse effect on the readiness of the Army and the quality of life for soldiers and their families."

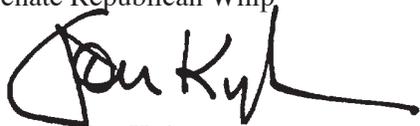
Our troops need this funding, and they need it soon. The Senate is in session and ready to work. We respectfully request that you cancel the remainder of your break, call the House back into session, appoint conferees promptly, and work in good faith to pass a clean supplemental funding bill that the President can sign as soon as possible. Every day we don't fund our troops is a day their ability to fight this war is weakened.



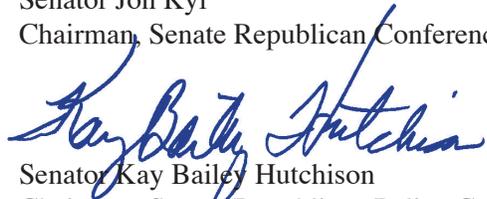
Senator Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader



Senator Trent Lott
Senate Republican Whip



Senator Jon Kyl
Chairman, Senate Republican Conference



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Chairman, Senate Republican Policy Committee



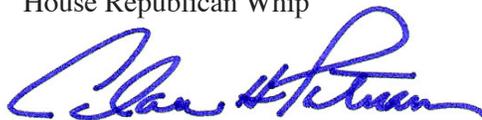
Senator John Cornyn
Vice-Chairman, Senate Republican Conference



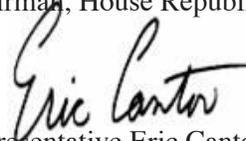
Representative John Boehner
House Republican Leader



Representative Roy Blunt
House Republican Whip



Representative Adam Putnam
Chairman, House Republican Conference



Representative Eric Cantor
Chief Deputy Republican Whip