

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael Arcuri (D-Utica) announced today that he will co-sponsor the Operation Iraqi Freedom Cost Accountability Resolution. This resolution, crafted by the Congressional Blue Dog Caucus, calls for full Congressional oversight of the funding for Operation Iraqi Freedom and detailed accounting of funds spent in Iraq.

“It is a grave disservice to our brave men and women in uniform that while they serve their country there is documented waste and fraud in the funding of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Congress owes it to those men and women and their families to ensure that every question is asked and every dollar accounted for,” Arcuri said. “I am committed to restoring Congressional oversight of Operation Iraqi Freedom by reinstating the traditional appropriations procedures. Congress controls the power of the purse in our government, and it is our duty to ensure that we have responsible accounting and thorough oversight. This is the only way we will move toward Iraqi control in Iraq and bringing our troops home.”

The Operation Iraqi Freedom Cost Accountability Resolution was introduced today by the Congressional Blue Dog Caucus, a group of fiscally responsible, moderate Democrats. The resolution draws attention to the funding of the war through “emergency” supplementals which do not allow for the accounting and oversight of the normal budgeting process.

The resolution would mandate:

- Within 30 days of passage and every 90 days after, the Department of Defense Inspector General and the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction would present an unclassified report to Congress that would include detailed accounting, contractor contract negotiations, and projected future budget needs
- The creation of a Truman Committee to conduct an ongoing study and investigation of the awarding and carrying out of contracts by the United States
- Funding requests for Operation Iraqi Freedom in fiscal year 2008 and beyond must come through the regular appropriations process, and not through “emergency” supplementals.

- The Administration must condition further American financial, military, and political resources upon steady progress toward Iraqi assumption of responsibility for security in Iraq

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