



CONTACT: Ateqah Khaki, Riptide Communications, 212-260-5000
Nancy Lessin, Military Families Speak Out, 617-320-5301

MILITARY FAMILIES SAY HOUSE VOTE ON IRAQ NOT ENOUGH

Families Urge Congress to Support Immediate Withdrawal

Families also Comment on the Bush Administration Report regarding Iraq Government Benchmarks

July 13, 2007, Nationwide – Yesterday the House of Representative voted to require most U.S. troops to leave Iraq by April 1, 2008. While **Military Families Speak Out (MFSO)**, the national organization of over 3,500 military families opposed to the war in Iraq, is glad to see that many in Congress are beginning to listen to the will of the American people for the war in Iraq to be brought to an end, families continue to urge Congress to do *now* what they ultimately must do – compel an immediate withdrawal of all US troops from Iraq, and end the tragic and unnecessary loss of life.

“Delays in bringing our troops home and half-measures which can be vetoed by the president may be good for political careers, but they don’t solve the problem that our troops and the Iraqi people are facing daily - the bloodshed, psychological trauma and death – and they aren’t ending this unjustifiable war now – which is when it needs to end,” said Military Families Speak Out member **Larry Syverson of Richmond, Virginia**, whose three sons serving in the military have served a total of five deployments to Iraq and the Middle East.

Nancy Lessin, one of the group’s founders, also said that the Bush administration’s report on Iraq Government benchmarks completely misses the mark: “The government that needs to be focused on is ours. The majority of Iraqis say that the presence of U.S. forces increases violence and security problems in Iraq, people across the United States are calling for an end the war, and a growing number of military families, Iraq Veterans, active duty troops and Veterans of other eras are underscoring that funding for this war is killing our troops. The time is now for Congress to take decisive action to end the funding that allows this war to continue.”

Military Families Speak Out has called for full funding for a safe and orderly withdrawal of all troops from Iraq, and for the care they need when they get home..

Members of MFSO, including families with loved ones currently in Iraq or soon to deploy or re-deploy, are available for interview.

-30-

Military Families Speak Out (MFSO) is a national organization of 3,500 families who are opposed to the war in Iraq and have loved ones in the military.

For more information about Military Families Speak Out, please visit: <http://www.mfso.org>