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Congressman Akin Shows Concern over Suggestion that Troop Fatalities could be Found Amusing

Washington, DC - Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), ranking member of the House Armed Services Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, stated that he was "very concerned" and "disappointed" by the comments made by a fellow Congressman on the House floor today.

During debate for the SCHIP bill today, Congressman Pete Stark (D-CA) made the following comments:

"I yield myself two minutes. Madam speaker, I, first of all, I'm just amazed that they can't figure out -- the Republicans are worried that they can't pay for insuring an additional 10 million children. They sure don't care about finding \$200 billion to fight the illegal war in Iraq. Where are you going to get that money? Are you going to tell us lies like you're telling us today? Is that how you're going to fund the war? You don't have money to fund the war on children. But you're going to spend it to blow up innocent people if he can get enough kids to grow old enough for you to send to Iraq to get their heads blown off for the President's amusement."

"I understand that there are people who have different viewpoints on the war. I also understand that there are different viewpoints on the SCHIP bill," Akin said. "What I don't understand is how a Member of Congress can think that our President is amused when one of our armed services personnel dies?"

Congressman Akin voted to uphold the President's veto of the SCHIP bill as it expanded a new entitlement to families making up to \$60,000 a year, which could force Americans off of their private health plans. The bill also did not require a proof of citizenship which seemed to open the door to illegal immigrants obtaining government funded health plans at taxpayer expense.

"I call upon Congressman Stark to please apologize," said Akin. "Such statements are insensitive and not appropriate for a Member of the United States Congress ."

