

April 3, 2003

House Approves Wartime Supplemental

Washington, D.C.- Representative Todd Akin (R-Mo), today voted for a national security package that will meet the needs of our troops overseas, defend our communities from potential attacks and provide humanitarian aid to the citizens of Iraq. The wartime supplemental was approved at a level of \$78 billion.

“It is essential that Congress steps up to the plate to provide the funding necessary to provide our brave fighting men and women with what they need to successfully prosecute the war in Iraq,” said Akin. “This supplemental provides the funds necessary to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and to significantly aid our efforts at home to defend against terrorism.”

Highlights of the national security package (supplemental) as provided by the House Republican Conference:

- \$62.4 billion for military activities in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom;
- \$4.2 billion for Homeland Security, including \$3.5 billion for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS);
- \$2.2 billion for First Responders through the office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP);
- \$498 million for border and port security, including various seaport security functions such as port security assessments and inspection technologies for cargo;
- \$250 million for international humanitarian food assistance;
- \$234 million for airport modifications to install checked baggage explosive detection systems;
- \$2.4 billion for a new Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, which will provide water and sanitation infrastructure, feeding and food distribution, refugee assistance and other humanitarian activities;
- \$165 million for bioterrorism and public health activities
- \$94 million to assist state and local health authorities with the costs of the civilian smallpox vaccination program.