

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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Contact: HASC Staff: Loren Dealy (202) 226-6339

Mr. Skelton: Lara Battles (202) 225-2876

House Republicans Play Politics with the Needs of our Military

WASHINGTON D.C.— House Armed Services Democrats condemn the Republican leadership for their scare tactics in scheduling a vote on legislation to reinstate the draft.

“There is no need for a draft in the U.S. at this time,” said Representative Ike Skelton (MO), Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee. “The U.S. military needs more end strength, but the proper way to increase troop levels is by improving recruiting and retention incentives, not through a draft. The all-volunteer force has worked extremely well since it began in 1973 and it continues to meet our needs today.”

“Scheduling a vote on this bill is nothing more than a cynical election-year ploy,” continued Skelton. “The Administration has mismanaged post-war reconstruction in Iraq. The security environment is deteriorating, and it is obvious that a significant U.S. military presence will be required in Iraq for the foreseeable future. But the way to remedy the situation is for the Administration to come up with an exit strategy, not to reinstate the draft.”

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