

Upton	Weiner	Wolf
Van Hollen	Welch	Woolsey
Walden	Westmoreland	Wu
Walz	Wilson (OH)	Yarmuth
Watt	Wilson (SC)	Young (AK)
Waxman	Wittman	

NAYS—41

Becerra	Kennedy	Pastor (AZ)
Berry	Kilpatrick (MI)	Payne
Clarke	Larson (CT)	Price (NC)
Clyburn	Lee (CA)	Roybal-Allard
Delahunt	Lofgren, Zoe	Sánchez, Linda
DeLauro	Luján	T.
Farr	Markey (MA)	Schakowsky
Frank (MA)	Matsui	Skelton
Fudge	McDermott	Speier
Grijalva	McGovern	Tsongas
Hirono	Moore (WI)	Velázquez
Honda	Napolitano	Visclosky
Hoyer	Obey	Waters
Johnson, E. B.	Oliver	Watson

NOT VOTING—32

Abercrombie	Jackson-Lee	Sutton
Baca	(TX)	Taylor
Barrett (SC)	Maloney	Teague
Butterfield	Miller, George	Tierney
Capuano	Moran (VA)	Wamp
Conyers	Neugebauer	Wasserman
Davis (IL)	Paul	Schultz
Gerlach	Pence	Wexler
Gohmert	Radanovich	Whitfield
Harman	Rohrabacher	Young (FL)
Higgins	Sestak	
Israel	Sires	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1909

Mr. DELAHUNT changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. SCHRADER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to instruct was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Ms. DELAURO, Messrs. FARR, BOYD, BISHOP of Georgia, DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. KAPTUR, Messrs. HINCHEY, JACKSON of Illinois, OBEY, KINGSTON, LATHAM, Mrs. EMERSON, Messrs. ALEXANDER and LEWIS of California.

There was no objection.

NO TROOP ESCALATION IN AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, President Obama will soon decide whether to significantly escalate the number of U.S. troops deployed to Afghanistan. I urge him to exercise extreme caution and not increase America’s military footprint in Afghanistan.

I was in Afghanistan right after the elections. Everyone admits there was massive fraud and that corruption is widespread in the government. Do we really expect to achieve long-term sustainable development in Afghanistan when the people have no confidence in

their leaders? Can we develop and train a credible Afghanistan security force when many of its leaders are allied with warlords and drug lords?

Last Friday, 57 bipartisan Members of Congress sent a letter to the President asking him not to increase the number of U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan in the absence of a well-defined military exit strategy. If we’re going to send our men and women to fight and die in Afghanistan for a corrupt and fraudulent government, then at least tell us when they will be able to come home.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, September 25, 2009.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,  
*President of the United States, The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As you consider the latest assessment of U.S. military engagement in Afghanistan by General Stanley A. McChrystal, we urge you to reject any recommendation to increase the number of combat troops there, particularly in the absence of a well-defined military exit strategy.

We have enormous confidence in the ability of the U.S. military, but we question the effectiveness of committing our troops to a prolonged counterinsurgency war that could last ten years or more, involve hundreds of thousands of troops, and impose huge financial costs on taxpayers already saddled with trillions of dollars of government debt.

According to General Charles Krulak (retired), the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, the current strategy of protecting the people of Afghanistan with U.S. forces would require an escalation of several hundred thousand additional troops. He warns that our military has already been overburdened: “Not only are our troops being run ragged but, equally important and totally off most people’s radar screens, our equipment is being run ragged.” It is unlikely that our NATO allies will be able to sustain the political support necessary for continuing such a mission placing even more of a burden on American forces and the American people.

2009 is already the deadliest year for U.S. forces since the war began eight years ago. Fifty-one of the seven hundred and thirty-eight U.S. soldiers who have lost their lives in Afghanistan were killed last month alone.

The national Afghanistan election that U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry hoped would lead to a “renewal of trust of the Afghan people for their government” was a disaster and will almost certainly have the opposite effect. The official Electoral Complaints Commission in Afghanistan has announced that is has found “clear and convincing evidence of fraud.” A government already mired in allegations of widespread fraud and incompetence is now facing serious charges and compelling evidence that it has attempted to steal the national election.

A February 2009 ABC/BBC/ARD poll found that only 18 percent of Afghans support increasing the number of U.S. troops in their country. This should come as no surprise. Historically, Afghans have always forcefully resisted the presence of foreign military forces, be they British, Soviet or American. The presence of our forces strengthens the hand of Taliban recruiters. Indeed, an independent analysis early this year by the Carnegie Institute concluded that the presence of foreign troops is probably the single most important factor in the resurgence of the Taliban.

We support your administration’s declared goals of defeating Al Qaeda and reducing the

global terrorist threat. But, we believe that adding even more U.S. troops to the military escalation that your administration ordered in March would be counterproductive. We urge you to consider and pursue the full range of alternative options including applying the lessons of the Cold War where we isolate and contain those who pose a threat to our national security.

Mr. President, the last thing that our nation needs as it struggles with the pain of a severe economic crisis and a mountain of debt is another military quagmire. We believe that this is why recent polls consistently show that a majority of Americans are opposed to a military escalation in Afghanistan. We urge you to reject any recommendation for a further escalation of U.S. military forces there.

Sincerely,  
James P. McGovern, Walter Jones, Ron Paul, Ed Whitfield, Neil Abercrombie, Jim McDermott, Pete Stark, Bruce Braley, Phil Hare, Raúl Grijalva, Lynn Woolsey, Lloyd Doggett, Bob Filner, John Olver, José Serrano, Barbara Lee, Jerry Costello, Ben Ray Lujan, Alan Grayson, Peter Welch.

Kurt Schrader, Tammy Baldwin, Ed Pastor, Yvette Clarke, Sheila Jackson Lee, John Lewis, Carolyn B. Maloney, Richard Neal, Diane Watson, John Conyers, Jr., Dennis Kucinich, Tim Johnson (IL), Steve Cohen, Keith Ellison, Donna Edwards, Laura Richardson, Michael Honda, Jan Schakowsky, Daniel Maffei, Steve Kagen.

Michael Capuano, Sam Farr, Chellie Pingree, Luis Guterrez, Maurice Hinchey, Maxine Waters, Mazie Hirono, Jared Polis, Roscoe Bartlett, John J. Duncan, Jr., Dana Rohrabacher, Mike Michaud, Earl Blumenauer, Rush Holt, Mike Quigley, Peter DeFazio, Jerrold Nadler.

MIAMI-DADE HEART ASSOCIATION LEADS THE WAY IN NATIONWIDE HEART WALK

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, the Miami-Dade Heart Association will hold its Miami-Dade Start! Heart Walk this Saturday, October 2, at the beautiful Tropical Park. Miami’s walk is just one of nearly 400 similar events across our great country that will help the tremendous lifesaving activities of the American Heart Association. This major undertaking is designed to promote physical activity and heart-healthy living in a fun-loving atmosphere for the whole family. More than 1 million walkers from around the Nation are expected to participate in this massive effort to help those afflicted by the Nation’s number one and the Nation’s number three killers, heart disease and stroke.

The main reason behind the walk is to raise awareness that physical inactivity significantly increases the risk of heart disease and stroke. Seventy percent of Americans don’t get enough exercise; and as a result, our waistbands have expanded and so have the number of preventable illnesses and health care costs.

Madam Speaker, both locally and nationally, the Heart Association is