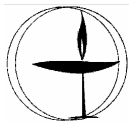


Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations



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Rob Keithan
Director

May 25, 2005

Dear Representative,

On behalf of more than 1,050 congregations in the Unitarian Universalist Association, I urge you to support Rep. Lynn Woolsey's Amendment to the Defense Authorization bill (#26). The Amendment simply requires the President to "develop a plan... to provide for the withdrawal of United States Armed Forces from Iraq."

While Amendment 26 does not require the President to actually carry out the plan, it would be a significant step towards assuring the people of Iraq, as well as the United State and around the world, that the United States does have a plan for withdrawal. The perception that the United States seeks to maintain a permanent military presence is a significant obstacle to the struggle for democracy and lasting peace in Iraq.

The Administration has done too little to allay this fear, which is why it is so important that Congress take action.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is deeply concerned about the continued suffering of American soldiers, their loved ones, and the Iraqi people. Within the United States, we remain troubled about the indirect suffering caused by the war: namely the significant funding cuts in critical programs that serve primarily middle and low-income people. The appearance that our government is more committed to controlling and rebuilding Iraq than it is to meeting the basic human needs of the American people is reflected in recent polls, in which clear majorities agreed that the war was (1) not worth the human and financial costs, and (2) that the US should reduce current troop levels.

This amendment is a small but significant step towards peace abroad and prosperity at home. Again, I urge you to support the Woolsey Amendment to the Defense Authorization bill.

In Faith,

Robert C. Keithan, Director