

Washington DC, 5/09/07—On Wednesday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) and Congressman Chris Carney (D- Dimock Township) announced “One for One” legislation that would require the President to certify the number of Iraqi battalions capable of operating independently to Congress each month and recommend that he redeploy an equivalent number of American troops from Iraq. The idea, originally formulated by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton, was codified in H.R. 2156, introduced by Israel and Carney earlier this week. The legislation is slated for inclusion in the Iraq Supplemental Spending bill which will come to the floor for a vote on Thursday.

“The President has been telling us for that for each Iraqi soldier that stands up, one American can stand down,” said Congressman Israel, who began advocating for a “One for One” policy over a year ago. “But after 4 years and \$15.4 billion spent on Iraqi military training, there are more Americans in Iraq but still not enough fully trained Iraqis. A One for One strategy demands accountability from the President while also allowing Congress to make redeployment decisions based on certifiable, quantitative data rather than assumptions. I’m hopeful that this strategy will be used as one of many ways that Congress demands accountability from the President and the Iraqi people, and I wish that the President had agreed to it when Congressman Skelton suggested it to him over a year and a half ago.”

Congressman Carney has touted the "One for One" promise since coming to Congress, calling on the President to bring an American battalion home for every Iraqi battalion trained. Congressman Carney is currently a Lt. Commander in the Navy Reserves and served as a Senior Terrorism and Intelligence Advisor at the Pentagon before being elected to Congress. "As someone who wears the uniform, I know more must be done to train Iraqis and bring our troops home. We need accountability in the process. This 'one for one' legislation has been a priority for me since my campaign, I am glad to see it moving forward as part of the Iraq Supplemental bill."

Today, the Pentagon reports that 136,400 Iraqi soldiers have been trained, but of those, approximately only 2,000 Iraqis are capable of independent combat operations. The remaining Iraqi security forces having varying degrees of dependency on U.S. troops.

Eighteen months ago, Congressman Skelton suggested a formula to the White House that would have redeployed U.S. forces in correlation with the number of Iraqi forces reaching combat proficiency. While his suggestion was rejected by the Administration, Reps. Israel and Carney worked to introduce legislation that would require the president to certify to Congress

every thirty days the number of Iraqi security personnel that have reached Level One or Level Two combat proficiency and to redeploy an equivalent number of U.S. personnel. Components of their legislation, H.R. 2156, are expected to be included in the Iraq Supplemental Spending Bill drafted by Democratic leadership. H.R. 2156 has an additional five original cosponsors including Rep. Tim Bishop (NY-01), Rep. Paul Hodes (NH- 02), Rep. Dennis Moore (KS- 03), Rep. Ed Pearlmuter (CO- 07) and Rep. Tim Ryan (OH- 17).