

Tauscher Responds to President Bush's Announcement That Combat Tours Will Be Cut to 12 Months

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Rep. Ellen
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Washington, DC -
Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Author of the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007, released the following statement in response to President Bush's announcement that he would cut Army Combat tours in Iraq to twelve months.

The Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007, which passed the House August 2, 2007 under threat of veto from President Bush, seeks to enforce the Pentagon's own stated policy which the administration currently ignores by prohibiting any unit of the regular Armed Forces from being deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom unless the period between the most recent previous deployment and a subsequent deployment is equal to or longer than the period of the most recent previous deployment. The bill further expresses the sense of Congress that the optimal minimum period between such deployments should be equal to or longer than twice the period of the most recent previous deployment.

"Last year the House backed my legislation to improve dwell time but President threatened to veto my bill. Now it seems that he is embracing this policy in what I can only imagine is an attempt to reduce some of the strain that his reckless policies have put on our service men and women and their families. Everyone on the front lines deserves to be rested and ready before putting their lives at risk. Even more, every family deserves the peace of mind that comes with knowing their loved ones are prepared for their missions both mentally and physically. The President's sense of timing lags behind both the Congress and

the American people but I am pleased he is finally on board. His step turns the clock back to where we were before, but we need to do better than a one to one rest to deployment ratio. I hope that it is sign that the administration will start walking back some of the policies that have left the Army over deployed, stretched thin, and overworked."

Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher