

## Tauscher Introduces Iraqi Police Service Improvement Act of 2008

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Ellen

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Washington, DC - Today, Rep. Ellen Tauscher, Chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, introduced the Iraqi Police Service Improvement Act of 2008. The bill transfers responsibility for training the Iraqi police from the Department of Defense to the State Department, a key recommendation of the commission led by former Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Gen. James Jones. Transferring the responsibility to the State Department has been recommended by experts, as they have the contracting support and experience needed to address the current mission, and it will free up troops to allow them to focus on providing security.

"We

need to ensure the Iraqi Police Force has the tools and resources to bring order and stability to their country," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher. "While the Iraqi military is taking a larger role in fighting insurgents and foreign terrorists, the Iraqi Police Service is still poorly trained and equipped. Improving and expediting their training will better stabilize Iraq at the local level and help the men and women of our Armed Services return home sooner and safer."

The

Independent Commission on the Security Forces of Iraq, also known as the Jones Commission, stated that "U.S. military officers rather than senior civilian law enforcement personnel lead the Coalition training effort for the Iraqi Police Service (IPS); this arrangement has inadvertently marginalized civilian police advisors and limited the overall effectiveness of the training and advisory effort." The Commission also recommended that leadership of the Coalition Police

Assistance Training Team (CPATT) and the Police Training Teams be transferred to senior civilian law enforcement professionals. Additionally, the number of civilian international police advisors is insufficient for the task of training the Iraqi Police Service.

"The Jones Commission makes the point very clearly; the current training practices are not helping stabilize Iraqi communities and are causing our Armed Forces undue hardship. After reading the commission's report and hearing testimony before the Armed Services Committee, I am convinced that this astute recommendation needs to be put into action, and I urge my colleagues to join me," said Rep. Tauscher

#### The National Defense

Authorization Act included an amendment authored by Rep. Tauscher to provide for a study and report by the Secretary of Defense on the appropriate number of police training personnel necessary to train the Iraqi police forces, the funding necessary to accomplish this, and the feasibility of moving this function from the Department of Defense to the State Department.

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