

United States House of Representatives
J.D. Hayworth
Listening to Arizona's Fifth District



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For more information: Contact Press Secretary Larry VanHoose @ (202) 225-2190

Hayworth Bill Would Cut U.S. Dues to U.N. ***'Our Veto Power Should Cost No More Than Other Nations'***

WASHINGTON – U. S. Rep. J. D. Hayworth (R-AZ) has introduced legislation that would reduce the U.S. contribution to the U.N. budget by more than \$240 million annually.

Rep. Hayworth's bill, H.R. 2303, would limit U.S. contributions to the U.N.'s regular administrative budget to no more than the largest assessed contribution of any of the four other permanent, veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council.

The bill does not affect U.S. payments to the U.N. for peacekeeping operations, voluntary programs, and membership organizations.

"Our veto power should cost no more than that of the other permanent members, China, France, Russia, or the United Kingdom," Rep. Hayworth said. "Even though their combined Gross Domestic Product nearly equals that of the U.S., we contribute about \$115 million more to the U.N. regular budget than those four countries combined. That doesn't make sense and Congress should put a stop to it."

Under current law, the U.S. contribution is fixed at 22 percent of the regular budget. That amounted to \$341 million for the current year. Under the revised formula suggested by Rep. Hayworth, the U.S. assessment would be lowered to \$100 million annually, or 6.5 percent of the regular budget, matching that of France, the second highest contributor.

"The current dues arrangement is particularly objectionable when you consider that each of the other permanent members of the Security Council regularly vote against U.S. proposals," Rep. Hayworth said. "Equal power should be matched by equal dues."

According to State Department records of Security Council votes in 2002, China voted against the U.S. position on issues of importance 80 percent of the time. Russia opposed the U.S. position 78 percent of the time, followed by France and the U.K. at 50 percent.

“Aside from simple equity, I hope this legislation will lead to a reconsideration of how U.N. dues are assessed,” Rep. Hayworth said. “China and Russia are now essentially getting a free ride. The solution would be for all permanent members to pay equal amounts of the regular budget because of their veto power. France and the U.K. would have to pay a little more, Russia and China a lot more, the U.S. a lot less.”

Current assessments of the other permanent members are: China, \$24 million; Russia, \$19 million; and the U.K., \$86 million. Ironically, nine countries that do not have veto power are assessed more for the regular budget than China and Russia, including Japan at \$303 million, Germany at \$152 million, and the Republic of Korea at \$29 million.

Rep. Hayworth said he also hopes a debate over dues will prompt a broader discussion of U.N. reform.

“The outrages are not limited to the meltdown over Iraq. Cuba began its recent crackdown on dissidents as it was elected to a new three-year term on the U.N.’s human rights commission. That commission is being chaired by Libya and includes some of the worst abusers of human rights in the world, including Vietnam, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

“There must be reforms if the United Nations is to avoid being reduced to an irrelevant international theater of the absurd,” Rep. Hayworth said.

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