



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Kind to President: U.S. Needs New Diplomatic Offensive in Iraq, Middle East

*Letter Stresses Enhanced Diplomatic, Political Efforts, & Constructive Engagement*

**Washington, DC** – Following President Bush's Iraq address this week, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) sent a letter to the President expressing his strong support for a new diplomatic offensive in Iraq and the Middle East that includes more aggressive engagement with Iran and Syria.

*The letter is below.*

January 11, 2007

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

The reduction of Iraqi sectarian violence in Baghdad is an important step in bringing about a secure and independent Iraq. In fact, the Iraq Study Group recognizes that "sectarian conflict is the principal challenge to stability" in Iraq. American soldiers and our Intelligence Community are highly professional and have been doing an extraordinary job under very difficult and complex circumstances. However, an increase in American troop levels alone cannot resolve this conflict.

A positive outcome in Iraq requires regional cooperation and positive engagement from all neighboring states. The history of the Middle East is too vast, too complex and too tumultuous to expect progress without an integrated diplomatic effort and multinational support from all of Iraq's neighbors. History is replete with centuries of marked violence and failed crusades, perpetrated by ignorance, arrogance and dogma.

Therefore we strongly urge you to adopt the comprehensive approach recommended by the Iraq Study Group, which states: **"One of the most important recommendations call for new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq."**

(more)

Specifically, we strongly support the recommendations of the Study Group, including:

*“Given the ability of Iran and Syria to influence events within Iraq and their interest in avoiding chaos in Iraq, the United States should try to engage them constructively.”; and*

*“The United States cannot achieve its goals in the Middle East unless it deals directly with the Arab-Israeli conflict and regional instability.”*

Clearly, as the Iraq Study Group pointed out, “the policies and actions of Iraq’s neighbors greatly affect its stability and prosperity.” And obviously, those neighbors will continue to exert this influence with or without our diplomatic engagement. Therefore we believe it is in the best interests of all Americans to immediately and aggressively engage these diplomatic discussions.

We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to assist your Administration in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ron J. Kind  
Member of Congress

Other signees: Reps. Wayne Gilchrest, Gregory Meeks, Mike Castle, Ron Kind, Walter Jones, Edolphus Towns, Ron Paul, Jim McDermott, Vernon Ehlers, John “Randy” Kuhl.