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ON  
WAYS AND MEANS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4208

June 20, 2006

The Honorable Zalmay Khalilzad  
Ambassador  
United States Embassy  
Baghdad, Iraq

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

As a member who represents the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and two National Guard units currently serving in Iraq, I feel it is my responsibility to draw attention to an issue that further endangers them in what is an already perilous setting. According to several recent news reports, the newly formed Iraqi government, led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, is crafting an amnesty proposal to cover Sunni insurgents who have killed American troops. I find these reports to be very disturbing and fear discussion of this plan could encourage increased insurgent attacks focused on our men and women serving there. It is absolutely shocking that we find ourselves in a situation where the United States is providing significant military, economic, and diplomatic support to a government that may pardon the murder of Americans. The simple consideration of such a plan is an affront to the countless sacrifices borne by our service members in Iraq.

I urge your involvement in this process. In particular, I feel strongly that the United States should publicly and forcefully oppose any plan that singles out attacks on Americans as justified or excusable. I understand this policy will be shaped by the sovereign Iraqi government and not the American Embassy or multi-national forces. However, considering the fact that coalition forces, particularly American, continue to lead the security efforts in Iraq, I assume we still have influence in the policies set forth by the new government.

The service of our American military personnel has been exemplary, and I am proud to represent so many of those soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. I simply ask that you wield your considerable influence to guarantee they will not meet additional insurgent violence as a result of any proposal by the Iraqi government to forgive the murder of U.S. troops.

Thank you very much for your focused consideration of this request and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Tanner, M.C.

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