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Members of Congress Call for Independent Commission on Iraq

Washington, DC -- Over 20 members of Congress who supported the resolution to use force in Iraq introduced legislation today to establish an independent commission to examine the intelligence on Iraq.

"Serious questions have been raised about what the Administration told Congress and the American public about Iraq," said Rep. Henry A. Waxman. "The Iraq Commission will be charged with investigating what the intelligence community knew about Iraq and how this information was presented to the American people."

Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX), Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) and the other 20 members cosponsoring the legislation want the commission to examine executive branch efforts to collect, assess, and interpret intelligence regarding the threats posed by Iraq. In addition, the commission would review the representations made by executive branch officials about these threats. Modeled after the September 11 Commission, the Iraq Commission would consist of a 10-member nonpartisan panel with powers to hold hearings, obtain documents and testimony, and issue subpoenas if necessary.

The commission is intended to supplement the work of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees and would complete its work within eighteen months.

Statements from some of the individual cosponsors are attached.