

March 23, 2007: Sanchez Statement on Iraq War Supplemental

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-Garden Garden) issued the following floor statement on HR 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act.

"I rise today in support of HR 1591 - the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act of 2007.

It's now been more than four years since the start of this war.

Last month I stood in this very spot and asked the President: What is your plan? What do you have to show for your invasion and occupation of Iraq?

That same day, we expressed the sentiments of the great majority of American people and passed a resolution opposing the President's decision to send more troops to his failing war.

Today, we are no closer to answers. Again, I ask the President: What is your plan? What do you have to show for this war?

Again and again, the President continues to give us more of the same. No plan, no results, no diplomatic strategy

Our military, their families, and the American people have endured 4 years of war, 4 years of surges---and for what?

The Administration continues to pull numbers out of the air about how many Iraqi Security Forces they have trained.

Here's the real story - this Administration has absolutely no idea how many of the Iraq Security Forces they have "trained" are actually showing up for work, actually at work trying to secure Iraq.

Mr. President, you have no answers, no plan, and no strategy to provide relief for our troops and their families.

You have asked for the patience of the American people while you come up with a plan.

But the American people have told us that after 4 years of war, more than 3,000 American lives lost, tens of thousands severely injured - and not to mention the lack of care, as demonstrated by the recent disaster at Walter Reed - they don't have any patience left to give you.

We, their voices in Congress, are now obliged to provide the legislative check and balance, and to hold you accountable for your failures.

We are done asking questions. We are telling you, to come up with a real plan for Iraq. Set political and military benchmarks to evaluate the success of your plan. Provide relief to our military and their families. Do so within a reasonable timeframe.

The ball is in your court Mr. President. What is your plan? What do you have to show for this war?

We're not going to ask again.

I yield back the balance of my time."

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