

Washington, DC – Today Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) voted against the Emergency Supplemental, which provides funding for the Iraq war but does not establish a firm deadline for withdrawal. Blumenauer did, however, vote for an amendment that funds domestic and international priorities. These include rebuilding levees in Louisiana, helping victims of the Midwest floods and providing aid to Iraqi refugees.

“Thankfully, this is the last supplemental funding bill that will be considered under the Bush administration,” said Congressman Blumenauer. “I have opposed the Iraq war from the start and remain committed to opposing all legislation that does not set a firm deadline for bringing our troops home. I continue to believe that the best way to honor those whose lives have been lost in this tragic war is to end it as quickly and responsibly.

“Without hesitation, I voted to fund vital domestic items. These include an expansion of ‘GI Bill’ education benefits, an extension of unemployment benefits, and the protection of Medicaid from harmful cuts. The bill we passed will also help Iraqi refugees, four million of whom have been displaced by this tragic war.”

Congressman Blumenauer has been a vocal opponent of the Iraq war from the start. In January of 2007, he introduced H.R.663, the “New Direction for Iraq Act of 2007,” a comprehensive piece of legislation requiring the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq, a new diplomatic offensive to stabilize Iraq, aggressive efforts at oversight and accountability, and a new approach towards reconstructing Iraq.