

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today voted to override the President's veto of U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act. The House voted to override the veto by a vote of 222 to 203, but failed to garner the votes needed to override the veto.

Mitchell made the following statement regarding the vote:

“Make no mistake, the American people are looking to Congress and the President to set a new, responsible course that demands the Iraqi government take responsibility for its own security and stability.

“In January, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki publicly committed to meeting a set of benchmarks, including quelling sectarian violence, disarming sectarian militias and developing a plan to share oil revenues equitably among all Iraqis. Yet, five months later, his government has failed to meet those benchmarks. It is time to demand accountability.

“One thing is clear: we cannot ‘stay the course.’ The people of my District are looking to Congress to ensure that our commitment in Iraq is not open-ended, that there is not a blank check on American lives, and that the Iraqi government will be held accountable.

“This is enormously important, and I am disappointed that the debate so far has been so partisan. It is inappropriate. Our sons and daughters in harm's way, and they deserve better. Now that this is behind us, I hope that both sides can sit down, roll up their sleeves and get to work in a bipartisan manner.”