

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

THE REPUBLICAN DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP:

Problem... *Crisis in the Middle East*

Solution... *Ban Gay Marriage*

At Time Filled With Domestic and International Challenges, Republicans Hope Only to Change the Subject

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today spoke out against the divisive and diversionary agenda embraced by the Republican Majority in the House this week.

"At a time of international crisis, Republicans have no answers," Rep. Slaughter said,
"and they are abusing their position in the House to pass meaningless legislation that won't have any impact on the lives of the American people."

"It doesn't matter what the challenges this nation faces are," Rep. Slaughter

said. **"Rep**
ublicans just go back to the same old playbook. Rising gas prices and a record national
debt? Ban gay marriage. War erupting in Iraq and the broader Middle East? Protect the
Pledge of Allegiance."

"This is a failed Republican Congress, and this week demonstrates their failure to
lead America in the right direction," Rep. Slaughter said.

"If the American people want a Congress that responds to their concerns - about
security, the economy, and global instability - with meaningful action, then we need a
change of leadership in the House."

BACKGROUND

HJ Res 88, the Federal Marriage Amendment, and HR 2389, "Pledge
Protection," will both be voted on
by the House this week.

HJ Res 88 would amend the Constitution to state that "marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman." Republicans in the House are pushing forward with the bill despite the fact that the Senate already defeated its own version of this amendment earlier in the year, ending any possibility of the legislation becoming law.

HR 2389 strips federal courts, including the Supreme Court, of the jurisdiction "to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, the Pledge of Allegiance, as defined in section 4 of title 4, or its recitation."

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