



Representative Louise M. Slaughter
Chairwoman, House Committee on Rules
Representing New York's 28th District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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□ **Rep. Slaughter Applauds Enactment of New GI Bill for the 21st Century**

Landmark Legislation Also Includes Extension of Unemployment Benefits

Washington, D.C. – Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today applauded the enactment of H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, key legislation to expand the GI Bill of Rights and extend unemployment benefits.

“Our service members have sacrificed much during this war and deserve our support when they return home,” said Rep. Slaughter. **“The enactment of this new GI bill marks a significant step forward in our effort to honor the men and women who courageously serve our nation.”**

More than 68,300 men and women from New York have been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since September 2001. Unfortunately, current benefits pay only about 70 percent of a public college education and 30 percent of a private college education for these veterans when they return home. The new expanded GI Bill will restore full, four-year college scholarships to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Supplemental Appropriations Act also includes provisions that will provide a 13 week extension of unemployment benefits for those workers who are unable to find a job during the current economic downturn.

“Millions of families across our nation are struggling with a slowing economy and skyrocketing fuel and food costs,” Slaughter continued. **“Expanding unemployment benefits will provide significant relief to Americans who have lost their jobs and are worried about making ends meet.”**

BACKGROUND

H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, was approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate this month. Today, President Bush signed the bill into law.

In addition to funding for the new GI bill and an extension of unemployment benefits, the legislation includes \$161.8 billion to support the cost of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through the summer of 2009.

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