

## Jan 31 2006 - Slaughter Responds to State of the Union Address

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Addresses Administration Failures on Corruption, Energy, Healthcare

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today reacted to President Bush's State of the Union Address:

"It is clear tonight that from foreign policy to domestic policy, from the War in Iraq to the culture of corruption, this is a failed Presidency," Rep. Slaughter said. "This Republican government has lost its credibility and this President has lost the trust of the American people. It is time for change."

Further statements from Rep. Slaughter can be found below:

On Ethics in the Congress:

"We are currently facing the worst ethical crisis in our nation's history. There are now a record number of criminal probes and investigations underway involving high ranking Republicans in both the legislative and executive branches, and there may be even more on the horizon. Yet the President tonight failed to even address the extensive scope and high cost of the rampant corruption consuming both his party and his administration."

"President Bush talks about leadership, and facing challenges, but he has not shown any leadership in cleaning up the Republican culture of corruption and cronyism that is strangling America and impacting the lives of every man woman and child in this country."

On America's Energy Policy:

"This President is a day late and gallon short if he wants to talk about creating a responsible energy policy at this point in his presidency. His remarks on creating an alternative energy policy for the United States rings hollow when one considers Bush's own dismal record on the issue."

"The Bush energy plan of the last six years has existed solely to provide a dizzying array of tax breaks and special subsidies for various parts of the energy industry, without lowering the cost of energy for American consumers and businesses, or reducing our country's dependence on foreign oil."

"Tonight, he failed to take responsibility for a harmful energy policy written by oil company executives that has hurt American security."

On Healthcare, Education, and the Economy:

"President Bush talks about fighting disease, but his Medicare plan is leaving our own seniors without their medication. And he has given us a healthcare policy that hurts seniors and the poor, one designed by big insurance and pharmaceutical companies for their own benefit."

"He speaks about the economy, but he is allowing our jobs to be exported overseas at the same time that he is cutting education funding."