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ENGLISH VOTES AGAINST TROOP FUNDING

In a press release issued from his home today, Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress who opposes Republican Phil English in Pennsylvania's third congressional district, criticized English for his vote against HR 1591, the bill which would fund our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Not only will English's vote help to withhold critically needed materials and supplies from our soldiers," said Porter, "it is yet one more indication that English—for all his professed independence—is indelibly tied to the Bush agenda and continues to vote in lock-step with the directives of the Republican leadership.

"As I watched the debate prior to the vote," Porter went on, "I was struck by the illogic and hypocrisy of the Republican position. Republican Congressman Boehner, arguing against the bill, said that if we held the Bush and Iraqi administrations to account with any kind of withdrawal plan, we would lose Iraq to Al Qaeda and reap a whirlwind of wider conflicts in the region. If that is so, if Boehner and English and Bush and the Republicans really think that, then why are they content to let a depleted U.S. military fight on and on? Why not institute a national draft, field a force of sufficient size to secure Iraq, and end the piece-meal slaughter which is going on now? Why not have rich kids fighting alongside poor ones? Why not ask Bush to contribute his own children to this critical task as Bush asks others to contribute theirs?

"Of course, the answer is painfully politically obvious. The American people would not stand for it.

"But no. The choices for English and the Republicans are not to augment the military or to seek a diplomatic solution which might include dividing Iraq into autonomous regions. Their only choice is to continue on a course in which our troops and the Iraqi people lose life and limb while months and years pass before even assessments of strategy can be given.

"We do not need politicians of Mr. English's ilk any longer. What we need is caring statesmen."