

----- Original Message -----

From: RICHARD BARLOW

Sent: Wednesday, January 02, 2008 1:46 PM

Subject: Amendment Action

In light of the President's unexpected veto of the Defense Authorization bill, I am formally requesting that Senator Leahy and Senator Specter please speak with Chairman Levin and Ranking Senator McCain now about attaching my amendment to the new DOD Authorization bill that both Houses will have to pass in the next few weeks. I am aware of no rule precluding this, and since this was clearly the intention of both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees before holds by a few uninformed members of your Judiciary committee stopped what was perfectly viable legislation to ask some questions at the last minute, I think this is a reasonable request.

After eighteen years of hell, as with the other relief bill in 1998, this new amendment was once again ready to go, supported by both sides of the aisle in Senate Armed Services, following years of work by Senate staff and me. Of this there is no doubt: I have attached below an e-mail from Danielle Brian of POGO regarding her discussion with Chris Paul, the Minority Deputy staff Director on Armed Services, confirming this. It was only due to the fact that Senator McCain, who had this amendment for months (and whose staff had meetings about this relief amendment with Ms. Brian going all the way back to last April) waited until ten days before the Senate vote on the DOD Auth Bill to send this to your committee, that the questions and issues raised by the anonymous Republicans on Judiciary were not addressed in time for the Conference. As we discussed, Nick, this technical snafu was not my fault, and I was, in effect, penalized for Congressional shortcomings. This is unfair as you agreed. Technical problems can be remedied by technical opportunities and here we have an excellent one.

I would think that now that Pakistan appears to be close to coming to pieces (surprise, surprise) and that the issue of Pakistan's now huge number of nuclear weapons falling under the control of a government sympathetic to Al Qaeda is front and center, in addition to the very current issue of both Iran and North Korea's nuclear weapons programs (courtesy of Pakistan); with three major books about our governments utter failure to handle Pakistan's nuclear weapons activities properly (with me as a major character) and all the lying to Congress involved, that this might provide some "focus" for the Congress to finally act in providing relief to the intelligence officer who came down and told Congress the truth under orders in 1987; organized operational efforts to try to prevent much of this from happening; objected to Congress being lied to, and had his life destroyed as a result.

I must say Nick and Mary, I am a bit concerned, as are others, that after all of this, and our personal meetings with Leahy and Specter themselves, now almost two months ago, and the commitments they made to deal with this, that since then, neither I nor anyone else have heard a thing from you or them, even after many e-mails and the letters that Bob and Danielle sent. I am starting to think that the Senators do not take this matter, me, or my life very seriously. Without going into all of the issues that have emerged in this case over the last eighteen years, I and others involved in this case consider it to have a direct bearing on the Constitutional responsibilities of the involved Senators and committees, not a just a favor to me, not that I do not truly appreciate any personal concerns for my well-being that may exist. You can imagine how it makes me feel when I read how during these last

months when action for me was possible, but did not happen, Congress had the time to pass 11,000 earmark amendments, many of which are utterly wasteful (as reported in the Washington Post http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/28/AR2007122803055_pf.html) and that you also approved, with no controls, \$10 billion to Pakistan, one of the most corrupt countries in the world much of which was put to uses other than intended, and no doubt various pockets. Bottom line: Congress does what it wants to and all the technical problems go away.

I understand that Steve Hadley is handling the negotiations with Congressional leaders on the Auth Bill. This provides an excellent opportunity for the Senators to raise this with him if need be, since Hadley was one of the primary officials responsible for the actions taken against me. I sincerely doubt that President Bush would veto the DOD Auth bill again over an amendment for me being attached and I doubt that there are any others that didn't make it for exactly these reasons, with these issues and with this history.

Sincerely,

Rich Barlow
505-259-7829