

Progressive Cheverly
Democracy from the Ground Up
progressivecheverly.org



3020 Parkway
Cheverly, MD 20785

February 9, 2009

Dear Senators and Delegates,

On behalf of Progressive Cheverly we are urging all Senators and Delegates to co-sponsor and support the National Guard Deployment Bill (SB 501) introduced by Senator Richard Madaleno. The house bill will be introduced shortly by Delegate Jill Carter.

This legislation would require the Governor to withhold approval of the transfer of the National Guard to federal control in the absence of a legal Congressional authorization for their deployment. We believe that situation applies to the current deployment of Maryland Guard troops to Iraq.

It is time to bring our Maryland National Guard Home from Iraq. Over 1,300 Maryland Army National Guard and 250 Maryland Air National Guard personnel were deployed to Iraq last year. Approximately 5,900 Maryland National Guard members have been called up since deployed since September, 2001. These deployments have caused physical and psychological trauma to those deployed, financial and emotional suffering and disruption to many Maryland families, and impairment to our state's ability to respond to emergencies here at home.

The fact is these deployments are illegal. Former President Bush obtained his authority to call up the National Guard to serve in Iraq from the 2002 Congressional Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF), which was limited to the purposes of defending U.S. national security from Iraqi threats and enforcing U.N. Security Council Resolutions relating to the 1991 Gulf War. It is our view the original purposes have been met and that it is time to bring back the Maryland National Guard and enforce the law.

Progressive Cheverly is a grassroots organization of Cheverly citizens in Prince George's County that works on a variety of issues through informed political dialogue and active participation in the democratic process. As an organization we believe strongly that the National Guard Deployment Bill should be passed this session. It is time to bring our National Guard home.

We hope we can count on your support and co-sponsorship.

Sincerely,

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