

Washington, D.C. - Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) voted today to support our troops by providing them with the weapons and equipment they need and keeping the promises made to them and their families. The Defense Appropriations Act makes critical investments in the health, well-being, and readiness of our armed forces.

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“We promised our troops to give them the resources they needed to protect themselves while they are in battle, and to take care of them when they get home, and we need to put their needs first,” said Barrow. “This bill helps us fulfill that commitment.”

The Defense Appropriations Act includes a 3.4% pay raise for our military, the best medical care, and strong support for military family advocacy programs. It also continues efforts to end the practice of “stop loss,” and pays our troops an additional \$500 for every month their term of service is involuntarily extended by that practice.

This legislation pays for the weapons they need to fight the wars of today, and prepare for the battles of tomorrow. In addition, for the first time since the beginning of operations in Iraq, this bill incorporates the cost of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan in the Defense Department budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

“Our troops need the best possible equipment, from body armor, to vehicles. That's our top priority, and that's what this bill ensures. It makes key investments in troop readiness so that every American soldier has what he or she needs to protect themselves, their fellow soldiers, and our country.”

The bill also makes a commitment to fiscal responsibility by reigning in outsourcing and putting Defense personnel, not contractors, in charge of critical department functions. It will also allow the Inspector General to hire additional investigators to ensure proper oversight of Defense Department acquisition and contracting.

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