

Rothman Will Oversee Defense Spending in New Role

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(Washington, DC) — Today, U.S. Representative Steve Rothman (D-NJ) secured a key role as one of 15 members on the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense. In this position, Rothman will play a major part in overseeing federal spending on the Iraq War and all aspects of America's military preparedness. The Appropriations Committee makes decisions about all federal spending, with Members of Congress focusing on specific areas based on their Subcommittee assignments.

"No issue is more important to me or my constituents than ending the war in Iraq while continuing to strengthen our military to protect our country. The Defense Appropriations Subcommittee is the place to be in Congress to make sure that happens," said Rothman. "In addition, I look forward to working with Rep. Jack Murtha (D-PA), the new chairman of the Defense Subcommittee, to provide oversight of the President's Iraq War spending requests and to ensure that our nation's defense dollars are being wisely spent."

In addition to serving on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Rothman will continue to serve on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, and today gained a seat on the Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

"My position on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee will allow me to continue my work to help the United States strengthen our relations with our allies and improve relations with all nations of the world," added Rothman. "As a Member on the Agriculture Subcommittee, I will be able to support programs of importance to New Jersey's farmers and to provide the financial support for school nutrition programs, as well as many other critical domestic initiatives."

Rothman has been a member of the House of Representatives for the past ten years as a member of the Democratic Minority. During six of those years, he has served on the House Appropriations Committee. As part of the new Democratic Majority, Rothman will now be involved in final negotiations with the Senate over spending bills. The Congressman will also have significantly more influence over all twelve spending bills, including those which cover transportation, housing, criminal justice, education, health care, veterans' affairs, and environmental funding.

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