

OUT NOW!

Sources: "Antiwar Republican Is No Longer Party's Pariah," By James Dao, the New York Times, 6/7/11; "Afghanistan Becoming War No One Wants: Lawmakers To Press For Strong Drawdown In Coming Weeks," by Amanda Terkel, Huffington Post, 6/7/11.



Opposition to the war in Afghanistan is now mainstream, with **the vast majority of the American public favoring a substantial drawdown of U.S. troops.**

With the death of bin Laden, the growing cost of operations and frustrated constituents, an increasing group of congressional lawmakers is also voicing concerns.

On May 25, **an amendment intended to accelerate the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan** sponsored by Reps. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) and Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.), **nearly passed.**

This is the most dramatic display of a shift in the House. A total of 204 lawmakers -- 178 Democrats and 26 Republicans -- voted for this bipartisan amendment, requiring President Obama to present a plan "with a timeframe and completion date" for the transfer of military operations to Afghan authorities. **The measure fell short by just 11 votes.**

"I was surprised that so many people had the guts to vote for it," McGovern said. **"The American people are ahead of the Congress on this issue, and they're way ahead of the administration."**

"If we're going to cut programs for children who need milk in the morning, if we're going to cut programs for seniors who need a sandwich at lunch, if we're going to cut veterans benefits, then, for God's sake, let's bring back our troops from Afghanistan," Jones said at a Memorial Day event in Beaufort, N.C. on May 28, to loud applause.

Now the U.S. military is seeking to make the case **against** speedy withdrawal of troops in Afghanistan. We need to fire up a national debate over the wisdom of continuing to fight a hopeless, never-ending war in Afghanistan. **Please join us to push the Afghan War front and center in the American consciousness, and to increase the antiwar pressure on the Congress.**



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for Peace & Justice

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07/23/11

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