

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz., today joined the majority in the House of Representatives in voting to pass H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Hurricane Recovery for Fiscal Year 2006. However, Pastor said he voted for the bill to support the troops, despite reservations about the war and the use of emergency funding measures.

Pastor's statement is below.

"It was with great reluctance that I voted for the emergency supplemental, H.R. 4939. I did so today only because the funds in this bill are badly needed to support the patriotic men and women in our Armed Forces who are serving in the Middle East.

"After three years with military forces in Iraq and over 2,400 Americans giving their lives to this effort, it is now time for the Bush Administration to stop funding the war through an erratic series of emergency supplementals. The American people are entitled to know the cost of the President's miscalculations in Iraq and he must be required to fund the war in his annual budget.

"After three years, Mr. Bush should have a plan for establishing stability in Iraq and bringing the American troops home.

"In the future, it would be only under special circumstances that I will support funding the Iraq war with 'emergency funding.' We have tens of thousands of brave U.S. service persons currently stationed in Iraq. They deserve better than uncertain and piece-meal funding to back their efforts which require them to daily place their lives and limbs on the line for a cause that has yet to be clearly defined."

With a vote of 351-67, the House passed the \$94.5 billion bill to pay for continued U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, hurricane recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast, border security and preparations for the Avian Flu.

The Senate is expected to consider the bill later this week.