



MEMBER OF CONGRESS

BARBARA LEE
NINTH DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA

**Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Emergency Summit to Prevent War with Iran
Berkeley, CA
March 10, 2007**

I am pleased to welcome you all to today's Emergency Summit to Prevent War with Iran.

Like all of you, I am becoming very concerned at the Bush administration's increased saber-rattling toward Iran. We must oppose another preemptive war like Iraq. More than that, Congress must discard the Bush administration's failed policy of preemption.

Pursuing a policy of preemption is a disastrous path. Toward that end, I have reintroduced legislation to disavow the doctrine of preemption. It's H.Res 23 in this Congress, and would put Congress on the record opposing this failed policy. We should adopt this resolution immediately and begin to unravel the damage that has been done.

This Congress I also introduced H.R. 770, which makes a statement of policy that the U.S. will not to enter into a preemptive war against Iran in the absence of an imminent threat, and then only in accordance with international law and constitutional and statutory requirements for congressional authorization.

It also blocks the use of funds for any covert action for the purpose of causing regime change in Iran or to carry out any military action against Iran in the absence of an imminent threat, in accordance with international law.

Finally, the bill declares that no previous act of Congress constitutes authorization to use military force against Iran and states that there should be no preconditions to engaging Iran in diplomatic dialogue.

We must make certain that every diplomatic option is employed to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and reorient our priorities towards the true goal of nuclear nonproliferation. We must be vigilant. We cannot go down then same path as Iraq and end up in another unnecessary, costly and disastrous preemptive war.

I thank you for convening this forum and for your ongoing work for peace, and I wish you the best for a productive summit.

###

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE

