

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6398

To impose a permanent prohibition on the use of funds by the Department of Defense for propaganda purposes within the United States not otherwise specifically authorized by law and to require an investigation into possible violations of the annual Department of Defense Appropriations Act prohibition on such propaganda.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2008

Mr. HODES (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. HINCHEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To impose a permanent prohibition on the use of funds by the Department of Defense for propaganda purposes within the United States not otherwise specifically authorized by law and to require an investigation into possible violations of the annual Department of Defense Appropriations Act prohibition on such propaganda.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS BY THE DE-**  
2 **PARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR PROPAGANDA**  
3 **PURPOSES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Section 8001 of the Department of Defense  
6 Appropriations Act, 2008 (division A of Public Law  
7 110–116; 121 Stat. 1313) states that “No part of  
8 any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used  
9 for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized  
10 by the Congress.”.

11 (2) This same prohibition on Department of  
12 Defense propaganda activities has appeared as sec-  
13 tion 8001 of Public Laws 107–117, 107–248, 108–  
14 87, 108–287, 109–148, and 109–289, the annual  
15 Department of Defense Appropriations Acts for fis-  
16 cal years 2002 through 2007.

17 (3) Recent media accounts have revealed a De-  
18 partment of Defense program that was designed to  
19 indirectly influence media coverage of the war in  
20 Iraq and the Global War on Terrorism by providing  
21 retired members of the Armed Forces, who were fre-  
22 quently featured in the media, with talking points,  
23 special tours, access to high-level meetings, and even  
24 classified materials.

25 (4) In reaction to these media accounts, the De-  
26 partment of Defense has suspended the program

1 pending an internal review, but, in the interest of  
2 full disclosure and in light of section 8001, an exter-  
3 nal review of the program is warranted.

4 (b) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appropriated  
5 or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense  
6 may be used by the Department of Defense for propa-  
7 ganda purposes within the United States not otherwise  
8 specifically authorized by law.

9 (c) INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTS.—Not later than  
10 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
11 Inspector General of the Department of Defense and the  
12 Comptroller General of the United States shall each con-  
13 duct a study of, and submit to Congress a report on, the  
14 extent to which the Department of Defense has violated  
15 the annual prohibition on Department of Defense propa-  
16 ganda activities referred to subsection (a).

17 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “propa-  
18 ganda” means any form of communication in support of  
19 national objectives designed to influence the opinions,  
20 emotions, attitudes, or behavior of the people of the  
21 United States in order to benefit the sponsor, either di-  
22 rectly or indirectly.

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