

Cutoff of Iraq funds rejected by Senate

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Senate, by a 67-29 vote, rejected a proposal Wednesday that would have cut off funds for military action in Iraq within the next year.

While many Democratic officials called for support of the proposal before Wednesday's vote, the funding measure was soundly defeated in a procedural vote with 19 Democratic senators voting against it, The Washington Post reported.

Republican senators who have openly opposed the government's strategy in Iraq also voiced their displeasure of the proposed amendment from Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Sen. Russell D. Feingold, D-Wis.

"I don't think it's responsible," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said. "It's a disservice to the brave men and women who are fighting in Iraq." The defeat regarding the funding cutoff date of March 31, 2008, came one day after Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., openly said they would support such legislation.

The Post said the top candidates for the Democratic nomination for president followed up on their promises by lending their support for the controversial measure in Wednesday's vote.

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