

For Immediate Release

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NATIONAL SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Chairman Tierney Statement on Passage of Pakistan Partnership Bill

Washington, D.C. – Today, Rep. John F. Tierney (D-MA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, welcomed congressional passage of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act (S. 1707), which passed the House on the Suspension Calendar. The bill was previously agreed to in the Senate and will now go the President for signature.

The Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act triples U.S. democratic, economic and humanitarian assistance to Pakistan to \$1.5 billion a year through 2014. In addition, it provides for significant additional military aid only if the President certifies that Pakistan is cooperating in mutually beneficial counter-terrorist efforts.

Chairman Tierney led the effort to include several important accountability provisions in the legislation, including a provision mandating that the Government Accountability Office review any presidential certification of Pakistan's cooperation against terrorism. This provision provides Congress with a reliable, independent assessment of U.S.-Pakistani cooperation.

In response to passage, Chairman Tierney issued the following statement:

“The Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act is an important milestone in U.S. relations with Pakistan. It lays the foundation for a strong partnership between our two nations well into the future. In addition, the legislation is designed to enhance U.S. and Pakistani efforts to disrupt and defeat al Qaeda and its regional sponsors. Pakistan is a vital strategic ally in our ongoing efforts to combat global terrorism and this is a powerful reflection of U.S. commitment to our friendship.”

However, now we must all turn our attention to ensure that this aid is used effectively – supporting programs that are meaningful to the Pakistani population and visible as symbols of U.S. friendship. It also needs to be spent with the accountability our citizens deserve. And, we need to hold Pakistanis to their commitments. The GAO study provision in the bill will give us the tools to evaluate Pakistani progress in support of our joint efforts to fight terrorism.”