

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 11, 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Obey and Chairman Inouye:

I am writing to urge you to oppose the McConnell Amendment, which is being offered in the conference on the supplemental appropriations bill.

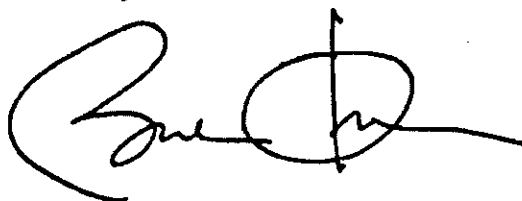
As you know, I have no higher priority than ensuring the safety of our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Given the singular importance of providing funding for our troops, it is essential that Congress pass the supplemental appropriations bill. Passage of the McConnell Amendment would unnecessarily complicate the essential objective of supporting the troops, and would accomplish no substantive purpose.

On May 13, I announced I would resist the release of additional detainee photos because I did not believe it would add any additional benefit to our understanding of what happened in the past, and that the most direct consequence of releasing them would be to further inflame anti-American opinion and to put our troops in greater danger. Earlier today, the Second Circuit granted the Government's motion that will stay the earlier court order to release the detainee photos, and we will now move forward with a petition to the Supreme Court to appeal the case.

I deeply appreciate all you have done to help with the effort to secure funding for the troops, and assure you that I will continue to take every legal and administrative remedy available to me to ensure the DoD detainee photographs are not released. Should a legislative solution prove necessary, I am committed to working with the Congress to enact legislation that achieves the objectives we share.

I look forward to working with you on this and other issues affecting the security of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large, stylized "B" and a circular flourish.