

REP. PETE HOEKSTRA: YES ON WAR, NO ON CHILDREN'S INSURANCE

Today, US Representative Pete Hoekstra is holding a fundraiser at the home of Dave and Linda Mehney. There is a private reception for \$1,000 per couple, followed by a general reception for \$250 per person.

Since 2002, Hoekstra has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Iraq War. Even in 2006—long after the intelligence community rejected the idea—Hoekstra claimed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) before the US invasion. To support his claim, Hoekstra cited 500 shells discovered in Iraq containing nerve agents. However, officials at the Department of Defense rejected his claims, saying that the shells were “pre-1991” and were “not the WMD we were looking for when we went in this time.”

Hoekstra's support for the war masks the fact that the war has already cost over \$462 billion dollars with “long-term costs” (including healthcare for wounded soldiers) estimated at \$2 trillion.

In Michigan, the war has cost taxpayers an estimated \$12.2 billion, including \$40.9 million in US Representative Pete Hoekstra's Holland, Michigan hometown.

Despite the incredible cost of the Iraq War, Hoekstra has voted in support of every new funding package.

At the same time, Hoekstra has refused to allot a comparatively modest amount of money—\$35 billion—to increase funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Increased funding for SCHIP would have expanded healthcare coverage to 10 million children.



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