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Message to Republicans: Stop Hiding Behind the Troops

In what can only be described as a cheap partisan attack masquerading as patriotic chest-thumping, House Republicans this morning issued a statement opposing Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich's resolution for the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan because... [drum roll please] the Republicans strongly support the troops in Afghanistan.

In a statement of Republican policy forwarded to GOP politicians and their staffers, the House Republican Leadership and the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Republicans write, "Since the President's speech, more United States Armed Forces have been deployed to the Afghanistan theatre in support of the implementation of our nation's counterinsurgency strategy. Many of them leave behind family and friends for the second, third, and fourth time. They have been engaged in the largest offensive since the beginning of the war there, and they have done a magnificent job. House Republicans are mindful these troops and their families will be watching this debate and remain committed to working towards swift and clean action when the resources impacting their military readiness, operational needs, and family support is debated and passed this spring."

The GOP has got to stop hiding behind the troops. As I mention in a recent article, our brave servicemen and women are being deployed to prop up a regime Washington doesn't trust, for goals our president can't define. Sadly, the war not only provides a potent recruiting tool for militants, but it's clear that it does little to appreciably protect America. As aptly demonstrated by the Christmas Day crotch bomber, the old argument of "We fight them there so we don't have to fight them here" is complete and utter hogwash.

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