

MATSUI CRITICIZES DETAINEE POLICIES

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Washington, DC – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) made the following statement after voting against a Foreign Authorization amendment which sought to legitimize the detention and interrogation practices at Guantanamo Bay. “Our nation’s moral compass stands in stark opposition to this Administration’s guidelines on enemy combatants. Heaping praise upon those policies – especially after uncovering prisoner abuse and allegations of torture – is unconscionable,” said Matsui. “The President has severely tarnished America's standing in the world, and in doing so has risked the safety of any American soldiers captured in the future,” she continued. “We should be seeking an independent investigation into detainee abuse; taking a critical look at the designation of ‘enemy combatant’; and we should not be applauding this policy. We can restore America’s credibility, but the President must be willing to act.” The amendment, offered by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), passed by a vote of 304 to 104. The amendment was made to the Foreign Authorization Act (H.R. 2601), which authorizes funds for the State Department, foreign assistance, U.S. embassy security and other foreign relations agencies. Additionally, Congresswoman Matsui is a cosponsor of H.R. 3003, which would establish an independent Commission to investigate detainee abuses. ###