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## **Simmons In Lock Step With Bush Officials**

Published on 6/3/2005

### **Letters To The Editor:**

I very much enjoyed the letter titled "Liberal label something to wear with pride," published May 28, from a Republican who opposes President George W. Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq. As he opens his letter, he describes himself as a "Rob Simmons Republican," contrasting himself to other "George Bush Republicans."

Sadly, Rep. Simmons' voting record and behavior make him more of a "George Bush Republican" than that of the independent-minded congressman he leads us to believe he is.

On Iraq, Rep. Simmons shouted up and down in 2002 how wrong going to war in Iraq would be. He told us his military experience is what led him to that decision. We needed to focus on Afghanistan, he said, and a war in Iraq "would not be in our best interest." Even after hearing confidential intelligence briefings, Rep. Simmons was not convinced.

Yet at the 11th hour, Mr. Simmons bowed to pressure and voted to give the president authorization to go to war. Lengthy press releases and e-mails to his constituents in opposition gave way to silence.

On every important policy matter, including Social Security, the environment, seniors, health care, prescription drugs, drilling in the arctic, and his most recent last-minute flip-flop on health care for our troops, Mr. Simmons is in lockstep with the Bush administration and House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. It's time for a change. ■

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