

## Notes from Lobby Day Working Group Meeting, Thursday March 1, 2007

The original idea was a 2-day event, bringing as many people as possible from national organizations to DC, with training on Sunday, and doing the lobbying all day on Monday. The original target dates of March 25, 26 are too soon in terms of the logistics and travel arrangements required for such an event.

It was decided that such a large-scale event should be held later—probably late April. In the meantime, two possible smaller scale options were proposed:

- 1) During the recess in the first week of April, have a District Lobby Day targeting members of Congress while they are at home in their districts. Rather than spreading ourselves too thin (over all 535 members), a select group of members will be targeted, including members of key committees. Kevin Zeese and Babak Talebi will compile this list of targeted members. Training for this event will be done remotely, via conference calls and the internet (a central website will provide materials and resources for participants to download and print).
- 2) A two-day Lobby Day event like the one proposed originally, except only targeting local DC-area members of Congress, since the membership of participating organizations is focused in this area and no major travel plans would be required. There are several key members of Congress representing local areas, including Hoyer, Cardin, Webb, & Warner.

The message for Lobby Day will *not* be strictly limited to legislation, but will also address the escalation of threatening language, the use of sanctions, and encourage support for diplomatic engagement and people-to-people exchanges. Can use strategic arguments as well as moral, and take advantage of increasing frustration with Iraq war—stress the need to avoid repeating the mistakes from Iraq in Iran. Some groups made their support for the lobby day contingent on the message being shared, which means more work must be done on shaping the message and the ask to Members of Congress.

To be successful, must aim for a **broad coalition**—should try to bring in groups including Iraq veterans, military families, Arab American groups, the delegations that have recently returned from Iran, in addition to all groups already involved.

For training purposes, need to organize a website ASAP with resources, talking points, district contacts—general toolkit with all needed materials. Much of this can be compiled from existing materials of groups such as NIAC, UFPJ, etc..

Within the next week, need to confirm organization participation and contributions, coordinate next steps via conference call or possible working group meeting, decide which option to pursue for late March, and assign further specific tasks.