Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of the resolution.

When American troops are deployed on the field of battle it is the

duty of every American offer them our clear support and prayers for

their safe return home. That is why I will vote for a supplemental

appropriations bill that not only pays today's bills in Kosovo, but

also begins to meet the national security emergency caused by 7 years

of neglect of our military forces by this administration.

It is an emergency that we have troops fighting in Bosnia whose

families are asked to survive on food stamps. It is an emergency the

Air Force now has less cruise missiles than they have bombers to fire

them. It is an emergency that as we call up 2,000 Air Force reservists

for Kosovo, the Air Force still faces a shortage of over 2,000 pilots.

And it is a grave emergency, that while we have gotten bogged down in a

tiny country on the periphery of our vital interests, the Joints Chiefs

of Staff have now confirmed that we face a ``very high risk'' of not

being able to respond to our vital national interests in major theaters

such as the Persian Gulf or the Korean Peninsula.

Support for our troops means more than a ``photo op'' for the

Commander-in-Chief. It means providing them all of the resources they

need to safely and successfully complete their mission.

Support for our troops also means not putting them in harm's way

without a clear goal, which can be achieved by military means, and

which supports our vital national interests.

While all of our hearts and prayers go out to the innocent Kosovar

civilians, it is painfully clear that 6 weeks of bombings have not

prevented a single Kosovar from being raped, murdered or expelled from

their home. Simply put, our military strategy of degrading and

diminishing the Serbian military infrastructure can never achieve our

stated political goal of peacefully reintegrating the Kosovar Albanians

into Serbia.

Replacing Vietnam era ``body counts'' with high technology ``bomb

damage assessments'' of empty Serbian barracks will not make this war a

success.

If this tiny and troubled region truly were a threat to our vital

interests, the only proper strategy would be full scale invasion of

Kosovo, defeat of the Yugoslav Army, unconditional surrender of the war

criminal, Slobodon Milosovic, and the occupation of Kosovo for the

decades it will likely take to rebuild this region. This strategy, of

full scale war, and the deployment of thousands of U.S. ground troops,

surely must have the support of the American people as expressed

through the approval of the Congress. For this reason, I support the

resolution by the gentlewoman from Florida.

But if our security interests are not at stake, however deep the

humanitarian crisis, we must consider more appropriate means of

response than our current round of ``therapeutic airstrikes.''

When American service men and women know that what they are fighting

for is important to their fellow Americans, and achievable through

military means, they would do it for free.

We owe them an answer to these fundamental questions. Are we fighting

for the independence of Kosovo? Not according to the President. Are we

fighting to defeat Milosovic and bring him to justice as a war

criminal? Not according to the Secretary of State. Are we fighting to

defeat the Yugoslav army? Not according to the Secretary of Defense. So

far it appears we are fighting because we can. We have replaced ``power

projection'' with ``sympathy projection.'' Blind support for this non-

policy of wishful thinking must never become the measure of our support

for American troops.