Madam Speaker, today we got word that a

fellow Representative from the State of Georgia, Representative Charlie

Norwood, has gone home to Augusta after battling cancer here in

Washington, DC. at various facilities. And he has handled his

affliction bravely, and he has been an example of a great fighting

spirit. We wish his family the best, and he is in our prayers as he

continues his battle.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to give the people of the Fourth

District of Georgia a voice in the debate on Iraq.

Today, I introduced the first bill of my young congressional career,

House Resolution 140. I look forward to presenting plans soon to

directly better the lives of my constituents and others in need

throughout this great country.

However, the conflict in Iraq is consuming our time, thoughts, and

funds; and people of goodwill must speak when given the opportunity,

and this is my opportunity to speak.

In order to move toward an end to the Iraq war, we need to push for

two things: number one, ending troop presence, U.S. troop presence, on

the streets of Iraq; and, two, securing the Iraqi Government.

United States troops engaged in street patrol throughout the country

expose themselves to massive violence, and it is arguably keeping this

war going long past the time it should have been completed. Our troops

are doing an excellent job, Madam Speaker, but the insurgents use their

presence throughout the country to justify attacks on them, and

actually 60 percent of the Iraqi people support those attacks against

our servicemen and -women on the streets of Iraq.

So why do they continue to be sent out into the streets of Iraq, into

a world of explosive devices and sniper bullets without adequate armor?

Madam Speaker, I am tired of seeing our troops lose their precious

lives for

this seemingly unending cause. So I am requesting in this resolution,

House Resolution 140, that they be taken off the streets and allowed to

focus on a mission that would truly help bring about an end to this war

once and for all.

Make no mistake, the job of hunting insurgents throughout Iraqi

neighborhoods is noble, but this is a job for the Iraqis, not American

troops who should be on their way home. The time has come for a new

strategy, Madam Speaker, one that focuses on taking our troops out of

harm's way and pressuring the Iraqi Government to finally take the

mantle.

Once that government is up and running, they will be able to put the

Iraqi military into action; develop a plan to ensure Sunnis, Shias, and

Kurds benefit from Iraq's vast oil resources; create jobs; and do the

numerous other things necessary to bring peace to that troubled land.

We must also consider the lives of millions of Iraqi civilians. Are

the insurgents using our presence, the presence of United States

troops, on the streets of Baghdad as an excuse to blow up

neighborhoods? Would they be better protected if we significantly

reduce our presence? I believe so, Madam Speaker, and it is another

reason that the President and the Secretary of Defense should consider

instituting this plan. This is a practical solution to that seemingly

unsolvable problem.

The use of the Iraqis will reduce war expenses as well, lessening the

burden on the American taxpayer and bring about a quicker conclusion to

this conflict.

Madam Speaker, it is time to bring this war to a responsible end for

the American people, for the Iraqis, and for our brave troops. And I

will continue to do all I can to help make this a reality.