Mr. Speaker, this Democratic Congress has been successful

in raising the minimum wage with help from people on the other side of

the aisle, and the President signed that into law.

It has also passed stem cell research with some help from people on

the other side of the aisle. The President has threatened to veto that

bill and that's unfortunate.

The biggest issue hanging over this Congress is the war in Iraq; and

while this Congress has made moves to have timetables and benchmarks,

it hasn't achieved a consensus that the President will agree to and

effectuate policy that brings our troops home.

It will take colleagues on the other side of the aisle, people who

have been wedded to this war, President Bush's war, and have been

unable to get themselves derailed from that train that's on a collision

course. Until Republicans come forward and heed America's call to bring

our troops home, more and more Americans will die in Iraq, more and

more American dollars will be spent in Iraq where they shouldn't be.

We need to redeploy our troops to fight terrorists in Afghanistan and

other places and keep our country safe. I ask my Republican colleagues,

Mr. Speaker, to join us.