Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of delivering a

knockout punch in Iraq, stabilizing Baghdad, securing freedom for the

Iraqi people, and dealing a blow to terrorism across the Middle East.

There has been far too much politicking on this issue. Let me remind

my colleagues that Iraq strategy is not about the legacy of Don

Rumsfeld or General Abizaid or even President Bush. It is about 23

million Iraqi people. It is about the citizens of the United States of

America. It is about the future of the Middle East, and it is about the

6 billion people on this planet who desire to live without the fear of

radical terrorism.

We can achieve victory in Iraq. In the past we have underestimated

the intensity of the death squads and the sectarian violence. Now we

will confront them head on by ensuring we have enough coalition and

Iraqi troops, not only to clear pockets of resistance, but to hold

them.

Mr. Speaker, our President and combatant commanders are ready to

deliver the knockout blow in Iraq. This is not the time for Congress to

tie one hand behind their backs. We must be in this fight to win, and I

support our drive to victory.