Madam Speaker, last week the American people voted for

new ideas and a new direction in Iraq. Changing the Secretary of

Defense was a good first step, but we have a long way to go, and the

situation is getting worse.

Last week, I went to Amman, Jordan, to listen to a cross-section of

moderate secular leaders from the region. They gave me their ideas for

stabilizing Iraq. It is a way forward and it comes from the people in

the region closest to the chaos.

These leaders believe the U.S. should redeploy our soldiers to the

borders between Iraq and Syria and Iraq and Iran. These leaders believe

strategic redeployment can stop the infiltration of violence and get

U.S. soldiers out of harm's way in Baghdad.

The leaders gave me a four-point plan they believe will save American

and Iraqi lives and their country. Strategic redeployment is a key

element. We should do it.

In medicine, doctors are taught to listen to the patient. The saying

is, Too

often we have gone in like a doctor who had an idea that they knew what

was wrong and how to fix it.

We, the Congress, must listen to those moderate secular leaders in

Iraq.