Mr. Speaker, when President Bush vetoed a bill earlier

this month that would provide health care coverage to 10 million

American children, he said the spending was excessive. The bipartisan

bill invested $35 billion more in children's health over a 5-year

period. Three weeks later, President Bush announces that he needs $196

billion to fight the war in Iraq over the next year. If $35 billion for

children's health is excessive, what exactly is his request for the

war?

I know the President believes that Congress is his personal ATM

machine, but article I of the Constitution says different, and we will

not rubber-stamp his funding request for the war.

As we have in the past, Democrats will continue to exert pressure on

the administration to change course in Iraq so that we can begin to

bring the

troops home. There is no military solution to the war; yet the Bush

administration refuses to put pressure on the Iraqi Government to enact

the political reforms that are necessary to bring about stability in

the country.

While we push the administration to change course in Iraq, we also

remain firm in our conviction to pass the children's health care bill

that covers 10 million American children.