Mr. President, at the beginning of my remarks, I wish to

associate my remarks with the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. Lieberman.

I think his point-by-point rebuttals to previous declarations were

appropriate and were right on point.

I will not talk long, but I rise to explain precisely why I will vote

against this supplemental. In fact, there are a number of reasons I

will vote against it--140,000 reasons are the men and women deployed

right now on behalf of the United States of America and the civilized

world.

It is right for the Senate to debate this war. It is right for us to

ask questions. But it is wrong to hold hostage the money that supports

those troops. We should separate the money from the debate. We should

never hold hostage the money for our troops who are, on order of the

President of the United States, defending our country and what we stand

for.

There are almost 3,300 reasons I will vote no; that is, the

sacrifices that have already been made on behalf of the United States

of America, those troops who have fought and those who have given the

ultimate sacrifice, troops like Diego Rincon, the first soldier from

Georgia to die in Iraq, and LT Noah Harris, a famous Georgian who

sacrificed his life as well. I have known those families. I have gone

to those services. I understand the sacrifice, and I know how they feel

of the pride of their sons who fought on behalf of this noble cause.

There are six additional reasons--my grandchildren. This is the

ultimate war between good and evil. This is but one battle in a war

that will determine the future security of the world. Make no mistake,

there have been mistakes made, but it would be a horrible mistake to

not confront terror or the agents of terror, because if we do, they

have won.

Unlike any other war ever fought by the United States, we are

fighting a group of people who don't want what we have, they don't want

us to have what we have: the Bill of Rights; the right for me to

express myself and Senator Kennedy to do the same without fear or

without cowering; the right for the press to call it as they see it;

the right to worship as you see fit; the right to bear arms. The 10

basic rights of the Bill of Rights are precisely what they want to take

away, not only from us but from the rest of the world.

Terrorists want us to cower in fear and want to run the world based

on that principle. To pass a supplemental appropriations bill that

couches the support of our troops based on arbitrary deadlines that

only serve to benefit the very people we fight is just plain wrong.

I relish debate of this war every day on the floor and hope we will

continue. The way you avoid making mistakes in the future is debating

those things which have happened in the past. But it would be the worst

of mistakes to withhold funding from our troops or condition it upon

arbitrary deadlines and circumstances in another country, at another

time, at another place.

Mr. President, I end my remarks by thanking those brave men and women

who have sacrificed and those who are sacrificing now and the families

of those troops, many of them families who live in my State of Georgia.

I will vote for the supplemental appropriations of our troops

unconditionally and separate our debate of other issues to another

document. But I will not support holding hostage our troops or their

money.

I yield the floor.