Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today in support of this

bill, probably the most difficult decision I have made in my 33 year

political career. But I do it because I want this war to end. I did not

support this war. I did not vote for it. I still believe that we were

lied to, that we were given at the minimum bad information, but I

believe we were lied to, the link to al Qaeda, the weapons of mass

destruction. We have been over that, but it can't be forgotten. We were

not told the truth.

But here we are now, and most of us want the war to end now. What

does ``now'' mean? There is no real now. Even if there was a vote

``called out now,'' it would mean for 6, 7, 9, 10 months the military

would, in a properly and orderly way, get the troops out. But there

would be no end date, so ``now'' could be extended.

This bill, however, does speak to ``now,'' because it sets a

timetable so that ``now'' becomes the desire to end the war and ``now''

becomes the mechanism in process to end the war.

In the next few minutes, the e-mails will start to come in from some

friends on my left, who think they are on my left, who tell me that I

sold out. Well, you know something? Not to end the war is to sell out.

To get dramatic and emotional about something without the reality of

ending the war might be to sell out.

I will take this vote tomorrow fully understanding that my vote was a

vote to end the war; fully understanding that I didn't pull the rug

from under the troops, but I told them that I didn't want them there

any longer; fully understanding that when there was a vote that spoke

about immediate withdrawal, we all remember how the Republicans took

Mr. Murtha's desire to end the war and turned it into a resolution that

said get out immediately. Interestingly enough, a lot of people who

want to end the war now didn't vote for that. I was one of only three

that voted to get out immediately.

So I have been there, and I have done that. This is the best vehicle

for ending the war. That is why I support it. That is why we have to

vote for it.