Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my support for the

supplemental, not because I agree with everything that is in it, but

because I agree with one thing that is in it, and that is a binding

deadline to end the war in Iraq and redeploy our troops to where they

are truly needed, and that is to fight the real war on terror where the

terrorists started to bomb our country and planned to bomb us on 9/11

and that is in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Why are we fighting a civil war in Iraq? Why are we fighting a civil

war in Iraq when it is in Afghanistan where the war should be fought?

Why are our Republican friends talking about protecting our national

security in Iraq when in fact it is al Qaeda in Afghanistan that is

posing the greatest threat to our national security?

It is this supplemental that talks about fighting the real national

security threat to our Nation, and that is

why I support this important supplemental, because it truly supports

our troops and it supports our veterans as well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my support for this supplemental, not

because I agree with everything in it, but because I agree with the

most important thing in it: a binding deadline to end the war in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, we need to redeploy our troops from Iraq first and

foremost because it is in our national security interest.

As someone who voted for the original resolution, I am particularly

pained by the hardships and suffering our troops and their families

endure. I want them to come home.

But I also know that the men and women in uniform, and the families

behind them, are willing to make the sacrifices they do if that is what

it takes to make America more secure.

The truth is policing a civil war in Iraq does not bring us closer to

defeating the global network of extremists who wish to harm us.

But redeployment from Iraq will enhance our security by allowing us

to properly address other challenges around the world, most importantly

the fight in Afghanistan and Pakistan against a resurgent al Qaeda and

Taliban, the enemies who actually did engineer 9/11.

The moral authority we've lost in the eyes of the world compromises

our ability to lead multinational efforts against national security

threats ranging from terrorism and nuclear proliferation to global

warming and drug trafficking.

The sooner we begin redeployment, the sooner we begin unraveling the

tremendous damage that this war and its mismanagement have wrought on

our national security.

We need to restore America's leadership. We need to strengthen

America's security. We need to pass this supplemental and begin the

redeployment from Iraq.

I believe in a strong U.S. engagement around the world, including

using military force when necessary. I also believe, as did Presidents

Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan, that America's greatest

strength comes from its values and its ability to lead.