Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the

Democrats' supplemental appropriations measure currently before this

House.

I am extremely disappointed before at the dramatically different tack

this Democratic leadership has taken with regard to the emergency war

supplemental.

Congress, instead of acting on a supplemental request that would

support our troops, has introduced legislation to withdraw our troops.

This bill, by attempting to micromanage the war on terror and implement

a congressional war strategy, will tie the hands of the generals in the

field.

Frankly, this bill crosses into dangerous territory for Congress. For

if this bill passes, its supporters will have decided to take over war

strategy, and we will have 535 Commanders in Chief. This is wrong for

America's national security, and it is wrong for the troops serving

bravely overseas.

Our troops deserve better than this, Mr. Speaker. And under a

Republican leadership in the House, our troops got

the funding they needed without the gimmicks found in this bill. They

deserve for this House and this Congress to stand ready to assist them

by providing the resources needed for victory.

And let me be perfectly clear, I will not support legislating the

micromanagement of this war from Capitol Hill. Members of Congress

cannot and should not legislate defeat by passing this ill-conceived

measure. And the Democrat leadership has decided to play politics by

tying more than $31.5 billion in domestic spending provisions into a

bill to secure votes.

Sure there are many domestic provisions in the underlying bill that I

wholeheartedly agree with. For example, I fought side by side in

bipartisan fashion for extension of the MILC program. And our cold

winters in western New York make LIHEAP essential for our communities.

But the House deserves the opportunity to make these domestic programs

through regular order, not by discussing them as emergency spending.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we have a choice to make, a choice to

support our troops by giving them the resources they need, or a choice

to pay lip service to our soldiers and make generals and Commanders in

Chief out of the 535 Members of Congress.

The right choice is obvious; and hopefully the Members of this body

have the courage and the integrity to make that choice, support our

troops. Vote ``no.''