I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened and, frankly, appalled that today in this

House of Representatives we are debating a bill to put ``retreat and

defeat'' into law at a time when we have our young men and women

engaged in combat. There are many things, Mr. Speaker, which affect the

morale of men and women in uniform and men and women in combat, but

putting into law mandating their defeat is certainly one of them.

Mr. Speaker, on February 10, 2007, General Petraeus addressed the

soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and civilians under his command in a

short letter. In that letter, General Petraeus explained quite clearly

that ``the way ahead will not be easy. There will be difficult times in

the months to come. But hard is not hopeless, and we must remain

steadfast to help improve security for the Iraqi people.''

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes hard hopeless.

As a 25-year veteran of the Marine Corps and the father of a soldier

recently returned from Iraq, it is with great hardship that I now

oppose this emergency supplemental. This supplemental does not support

our military; it undermines the best opportunity to prevent the dire

predictions of our Intelligence Community when they put out that NIE

saying that this course of action which will be driven by this bill

will increase sectarian violence, cause massive civilian casualties,

create a terror safe haven and a potential for wider conflict that

would draw in other regional powers.

Again, General Petraeus said, in talking to his soldiers, sailors,

airmen and marines, ``Success will require discipline, fortitude and

initiative, qualities that you have in abundance.'' Would that we have

more of that here.