Mr. Speaker, the House is poised to vote on

legislation that, if passed, will cripple our foreign policy for many

years to come and place our troops and all American citizens in great

danger. It is a bill that seeks to abandon the Iraqi people, that seeks

to abandon our closest friends and allies in the Middle East, leaving

them to fend for themselves against radical Islamic militant jihadists.

It is a bill that provides a roadmap for the insurgents, giving them a

detailed account of the benchmarks they need to focus on in order to

ensure an American withdrawal from Iraq.

Regardless of victory or failure, this bill demands withdrawal from

Iraq. It demonstrates very little confidence in the ability of our troops to get

the job done in Iraq and defeat the terrorists there.

My stepson Doug and my daughter-in-law Lindsey have served proudly as

marine fighter pilots in Iraq, and Lindsey will soon head back to

another tour of duty in Iraq. They do not believe that you can separate

the soldier from the mission. They do not believe that we have an

option to simply walk away. Doug and Lindsey and many others like them

do not want Congress to add to the burdens and the dangers that they

face by legislating restrictions, deadlines and arbitrary instructions

that only benefit the enemy.

The obvious danger of this legislation has been demonstrated by the

desperate measures that the majority has resorted to in order to

overcome fierce resistance in their own caucus. An emergency war

funding measure should not be used to pay for programs that benefit

narrow, favored constituencies.

I doubt that this ambition by the majority to micromanage the war

will be their last attempt. Are they envisioning assuming command and

control of the positioning and movement of our troops; of setting daily

targets for air strikes; of determining our negotiation strategy with

allies and opponents?

Perhaps a war room should be set up outside this Chamber so that they

can make it easier to offer instructions on the battlefield.