Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of

this legislation, in support of our troops, in support of our veterans,

and in strong support of ending the Iraq war.

After 4 years of mismanagement, mistakes and excuses, the Bush

administration and their supporters in Congress continue to be

comfortable with a ``stay the course'' policy, while American troops

are in the middle of an Iraq civil war.

Passing this supplemental appropriation requires leadership. It will

be the Democrats passing this bill, taking the first historic step

towards ending President Bush's Iraq war.

It will be Democrats who hold President Bush and President Maliki

accountable for achieving the political conditions that will allow U.S.

troops to come home safe and soon.

Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Obey, Chairman Murtha all deserve to be

recognized for their courage and their leadership in bringing this war

to an end.

And I urge all my colleagues to support this bill and take the first

important step towards ending the war in Iraq.