Mr. Chairman, thank you for allocating the time for me to

come and basically disagree with you on this floor, but that is what

democracy is all about.

I don't believe that this bill will do what it is intended to do. I

don't believe it makes good sense to say that our troops should be well

trained and well equipped, and then give the President the right to

waive that.

I don't believe that the President will report to us in any fashion

that we can rely on in July, which will determine whether or not we get

out by December or whether we continue to give assistance to the

Iraqis.

I don't believe that it is enforceable, and I don't believe that this

war will end by next August even though I think that is what the

leadership intends for it to do.

This war has been mismanaged. We have been misled. We have been made

to believe we would be welcomed with open arms. There were no weapons

of mass destruction. That the troops were getting trained and success

was right around the corner, and even last week when carnage was taking

place in Iraq and our soldiers were being killed, this administration

was out in the media talking about we were succeeding. And we will

continue to be misled. This war has been mismanaged.

We don't have any friends in Iraq. The Sunnis do not want us there.

The Shiites don't like the occupation, and the Kurds don't like us. We

are undermined on a daily basis.

Even Mr. Maliki, who is supposed to be our ally, is working with Sadr

over in Sadr City, who controls the militias. The police departments

that are supposedly working to secure the people

are part of the undermining that is going on. Our soldiers, when they

are in confrontations, are deserted by the very people that they are

supposed to train.

General said this cannot be won militarily, it must be done

diplomatically. I don't see the diplomatic effort.

I don't believe that giving $100 billion to the President of the

United States to continue this war will achieve the goal that we intend

for it to achieve. I oppose this legislation. I will continue to work

with the Out of Iraq Caucus, and I am hopeful we can end this war and

bring our soldiers home.