Mr. Speaker, today is a very solemn day for our Nation.

The House just voted to pass a bill that will continue to fund the

ongoing occupation of Iraq. I know all too well how my colleagues

anguished over their decision, but we must be clear what this vote

means.

The supplemental, the largest in the history of our country, will pay

for the President's escalation, an escalation that he calls a surge

that we voted against just a few weeks ago.

It will include benchmarks and requirements that the administration

can waive with the bat of an eye; and, most importantly, it could keep

our troops on the ground for another year and a half at least.

Let's remember that the public did not elect Democrats to bring our

troops home in 2008. They elected us to bring them home now.

I am truly and sincerely sad to say that as we debate the future of

our troops, our troops are being targeted by terrorists, are being

wounded by IEDs, and the most tragic and heart-breaking part of all,

they are dying, and they are killing.

The American public knows the simple truth, Mr. Speaker: You can't be

against the occupation and vote for this supplemental of at least $100

billion. The Democrats were elected in November because the American

people want us, are expecting us, and are demanding of us that we bring

our troops home as soon as possible. They do not trust the

administration to do the right thing. They want us to hold the

administration accountable.

We must stand up to an administration that has lied to get us into

this war and will keep lying to keep us in it. It is sad when a Nation

cannot trust its Commander in Chief to put the lives of the troops

above his political legacy. But in that position, a Congress must take

real and enforceable steps to bring an end to the occupation.

I have come to this spot over 195 times to speak about the

unmitigated disaster that is Iraq. This is my moral obligation and that

of our country.

To those who are watching and wondering about the future of our Iraq

policy, I say: I will not stop, I will not rest, and I will not back

down in my fight until every single last soldier and marine is home

safe with his or her family.

This fight is far from over. Over the next several months, we will

revisit this issue many, many times. I will work with my colleagues to

make each measure stronger and each measure more effective and to bring

our troops home to their families earlier rather than later. It is with

their families that they belong. Today will be marked in history. I

know that the future of our standing in the world and the future of

Iraq depends on us being bold and brave and taking the actions that

will bring our troops home.