Mr. Speaker, shockingly, individuals on the Federal

terrorist watch list are not excluded from purchasing firearms in the

United States. Quite simply, this means you can be on a terrorist watch

list and be prohibited from boarding a plane because we think you are a

terrorist, but you can buy a semiautomatic weapon.

Last week, American-born al Qaeda spokesman Adam Gadahn urged the

terrorist group's followers to exploit this ``terror gap'' in our gun

laws. Our enemies, intent on destroying Americans and our way of life,

have made a calculated decision that Congress cares more about

protecting the gun lobby than it does the safety of its citizens. They

are convinced we lack the courage and fortitude to close our gaping

loopholes and that their persistent campaign to strike again on our

soil has new promise.

I would love to stand here today and say our enemy has grossly

underestimated us. I am not certain I can. My colleagues in Congress

are now faced with a critical opportunity to do the right thing and

pass the most commonsense of commonsense policies by closing the terror

gap. Al Qaeda will be watching our response.