Mr. Speaker, last week President Bush defended his war in

Iraq saying it would be a disaster if we left. Well, if the President

doesn't know it by now, we already have a disaster on our hands.

Allow me to read a few headlines from the past week to give everyone

a sense of how well the war is progressing:

The Washington Post, June 18, 2007, General Petraeus: ``Iraq

'Challenges' to Last for Years.''

New York Times, June 16, 2007, ``In Iraq Secretary Gates Says

Progress Toward Peace is Lagging.''

New York Times, June 13, 2007, ``Violence Rising in Much of Iraq,

Pentagon Says.''

MSNBC.com, March 17, 2006, ``Cost of Iraq War could surpass $1

trillion. Of course, the estimates vary but all agree price is far

higher than initially expected.''

A Pentagon report released last week gave a grim outlook of the

situation in Iraq. While the number of U.S. troops on the ground

reached a record high as a result of the President's so-called troop

surge, violence in Iraq has continued to increase. In fact, since the

surge was announced, 500 American troops have been killed. According to

the report, much of the violence that plagues Iraq is attributable to

``sectarian friction and each faction is driven by its own political

and economic power relationships.''

Further, ``Illegally armed groups are engaged in a cycle of sectarian

and politically motivated violence, using tactics that include

indiscriminate bombing, murder, executions and indirect fire to

intimidate and provoke sectarian conflict.''

Simply put, Iraq is a full-fledged civil war.

The number of suicide attacks in Iraq has increased from 26 in

January to 58 in March and April. Remember IEDs, that is, improvised

explosive devices? Now insurgents are increasingly using a more

advanced type of IED called EFPs, or explosively formed projectiles, to

kill our soldiers. These new bombs are being used in rapidly increasing

numbers and are extremely effective at piercing the armor of our

Humvees, tanks, and troop transports, causing mass casualties. As of

today, there have been 3,526 U.S. deaths; there have been 26,000

Americans wounded, some very serious; 60,000 to 100,000 Iraqi civilians

have died; and there are over 1,000 attacks per week, on average, and

steadily growing.

We have spent over $435 billion of taxpayer money. The total cost to

our economy could be upwards of $1 trillion to $2 trillion.

It is time to face the facts. Bombs and bullets have not and will not

bring us peace in Iraq.

In January, I, along with my colleagues Barbara Lee and Lynn Woolsey,

introduced H.R. 508, the ``Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty

Restoration Act of 2007.'' This bill repeals the authorization of force

in Iraq, requires a complete withdrawal of troops within 6 months, and

puts Iraq on a path to sovereignty and peace. This bill seeks to end

the cycle of violence that has plagued Iraq since we began this

occupation.

There is bipartisan opposition to the war in Iraq, and a majority of

Americans not only think President Bush is doing a poor job handling

the situation in Iraq, but a majority also support setting a timetable

for withdrawal. Our constituents sent us a strong message in November

and continue to demand an end to this war.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we in Congress have the courage to bring

this war in Iraq to an end.