Mr. Speaker, President Bush and the Republican

leadership in the House are asking us today to vote again on a huge

appropriations bill to fund the Iraq war without any oversight. I do

not understand how we can be asked to vote on another huge

appropriations bill to spend money in Iraq, and yet we do not have any

oversight, any hearings to determine what the costs are and what the

money is being spent on.

Yesterday I talked about how there have been renewed reports about

how our soldiers are not properly protected. There is no exit strategy.

What are the overall costs of this war? And what does it mean when we

continue to go into deficit and do not have money to pay for domestic

programs without having an exit strategy or even any defined strategy

of what our goals are in Iraq?

As was mentioned earlier today by other speakers, we know that we

went into Iraq for the wrong reasons. The weapons of mass destruction

were never found, were never there. Yet no one within the Bush

administration or within the Republican leadership basically tells us

what the reason is, why we are remaining, how long we are going to be

there or what the cost is going to be.

I do not think we should be voting on this bill today until we have

answers to those questions.