Madam Speaker, on the fourth anniversary of the invasion

of Iraq, several new polls looking at the opinions of the Iraqi people

were released. It is important that we heed this call and that we

listen to their choices, because it has been 4 years.

Some frightening stories were illuminated by the new polls. For

example, one in four Iraqi adults have had a family relative murdered

in the last 3 years, while 23 percent of those living in Baghdad have

had a family relative kidnapped in the last 3 years.

More than half of Iraqis have a close friend or relative who has been

hurt or killed in the current violence. One in six say someone in their

own household has been harmed. Eighty-six percent worry about a loved

one being hurt, two-thirds worry deeply. Huge numbers limit their daily

activities to minimize risk. Seven in 10 report multiple signs of

traumatic stress. The number of Iraqis who describe their lives as good

has dropped from 71 percent 3 years ago to under 40 percent today.

This is shameful, Madam Speaker. Every day the evidence against

President Bush's so-called war plan mounts. It makes one wonder if

there is even a plan at all. How much of the Bush Iraq policy has been

forced on the Iraqi people? How much real involvement have the Iraqi

people had in deciding the future of their own country. How are the

Bush policies affecting Iraqi families?

I voted against the authorization to go to war. And Madam Speaker, I

say to my colleagues, whether they voted ``yes'' or ``no,'' now is the

time to make a change in direction. Let us empower the Iraqi people;

let us restore their sovereignty.

Last week, I had the opportunity to testify before the Foreign

Affairs Committee about my legislation, H.R. 508, the Bring the Troops

Home and Restoration of Iraq Sovereignty bill. This bill is a

comprehensive proposal. It has 49 cosponsors, and it will end the

occupation of Iraq within 6 months of enactment. It will accelerate the

training and equipping of Iraqi military and security forces, preparing

the Iraqis to take over their own security after U.S. troops and

contractors leave at the end of the 6 months. It will fully fund the

health care commitment to our returning veterans. It will make veterans

health care an entitlement, something they deserve because, for heavens

sakes, they have done so much for us.

Additionally, the legislation revokes the President's Iraq war

powers, it prevents establishment of permanent bases in Iraq, and it

returns the oil rights to the Iraqi people. Actually, it gives Iraq

back to the Iraqis.

Madam Speaker, our most solemn obligation is to the brave and capable

men and women who have been placed in harm's way. This legislation, as

I said, guarantees physical and mental health care for U.S. veterans of

military operations in Iraq and other conflicts. It is the least we can

do. It is the very least we can do to show the gratitude of a grateful

Nation.

H.R. 508 will fulfill our commitment to our Nation's brave troops and

to the Iraqi people. The polls here and the polls in Iraq are clear: it

is time to bring our troops home.

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.