Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2956, the

Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.

Now, certainly this measure is part of an ongoing effort to try to

bring comprehensive change. We do have a vested interest in the Middle

East as we are engaged in this war on terror throughout the world.

Notwithstanding that fact, though, for 6 years, our administration

has had a blank check in Iraq, and that war on terror, and

unfortunately, I think, by any critical evaluation, at best it has been

bungled. At worst, we have made a mess of things. The previous

Congresses have left little to be desired in terms of real oversight.

With unlimited resources, we have complicated our relations with the

Middle East, and it's unfortunate for our country. It seems for every

step forward, we take a step back. This legislation, then again, is

another effort to begin a new direction, which will protect our

interests in the Middle East and begin to develop a plan to bring our

troops home.

What is lacking in this legislation though is a requirement for the

President to tell us how we are going to, in fact, stabilize the areas

with all the diplomatic resources available to us and our allies

throughout the world in this region. Nonetheless, under the current

circumstances, this legislation, I believe, is the next logical step.

Clearly, doing more of the same continues to risk precious lives of

American men and women in uniform, not to mention our Treasury, with

little responsiveness, unfortunately and cooperation from the Iraqi

Government.

Hopefully, this legislation will allow the administration to engage

and work with us for constructive change that the American people

demands.

I ask for an ``aye'' vote.