Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for

yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad and disappointing day for this House and

for America. Once again, the majority is placing politics over national

security, politics over reasoned policy, politics and partisanship over

citizens and sanity.

Clearly this bill was not written in response to what our generals

think, whose interim report was released just hours ago. Instead, it

was written in reaction to polls and to political pressure from

MoveOn.org and others. This isn't a thoughtful piece of legislation to

achieve success in Iraq or success for America.

The lack of definition for a limited presence included in the bill

reveals that this is just another cynical attempt by the majority to

politically pander. How terribly disappointing.

In effect, this legislation is a vote of no confidence in our

military commanders, and it's a shot of encouragement to al Qaeda. It's

pure political opportunism, and it's devoid of military strategy.

As Members of Congress, we have a greater responsibility than just to

politics. We have a responsibility to do what is in the best interest

of long-term American security. We must be thoughtful. We must be

deliberate in our actions.

We have a capable leader, General David Petraeus, unanimously

approved by the Senate, the expert in counterinsurgency strategy. He

was given by this Congress, just a few weeks ago, until September, to

make positive progress in Iraq and report.

But this majority isn't interested in what our military commanders

are capable of, or the situation on the ground. Their only interest is

politics, in raising the white flag and in coming home without any

thought or definition as to when or where they are willing to defend

our security.

But because the political climate is ripe, the majority wants to

undercut our troops. It's upsetting, it's sad, and it's very

disconcerting that politics would trump national security.

This bill signals to our enemies that it doesn't matter what the

commanders say. It says that thoughtful military strategy takes a back

seat to good politics.

This isn't an exit strategy, it's a political strategy. How terribly

disappointing.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to vote ``no'' on this bill and to

commit to positively working together on behalf of the American people

and American security.