Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

The interim report released by the President today details exactly

what I anticipated, a lack-of-progress report which demonstrates that

the Iraqi Government has made the least progress on those key

benchmarks that are vital to achieving stabilization.

The President at a press conference earlier today stressed the usual

line of excuses that he has far too often utilized in the past, stating

that we need to give General Petraeus time to show that the plus-up is

effective and stress the importance of waiting until the September 15

progress report is released before drawing conclusions on the policy in

Iraq. However, the President forgot to mention that General Petraeus

said in an interview just last month that the chances of having a

stable Iraqi Government in place by September are slim to none. Those

are his words.

Frankly, our troops need our support, and that support must be their

redeployment, which will end the continued bloodshed.