Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

I support this legislation because it will make America safer. Our

safety depends upon stability in Iraq.

Now, there are two ways to achieve stability in Iraq. The first is to

prop up the present government and hope it succeeds.

That has failed. The best evidence of that failure is from Iraqi

leaders themselves. Last weekend, a Shiite Member of Iraq's legislature

said, in the absence of enough security forces, authorities should help

residents arm themselves for their own protection. The Sunni president

of Iraq said, people have a right to expect from the government and

security agencies protection for their lives, land, honor and property,

Mr. al-Hashemi said. But in the case of the inability of Iraqi security

forces, the people have no choice but to take up their own defense.

This government has failed, and we are spending the precious blood of

our sons and daughters to prop it up.

The second way to achieve stability in Iraq is to compel a political

solution. This resolution will do that. It deserves our support.