Mr. Speaker, I want to take my 2 minutes to apologize to

a few families from my district for having to listen, once again, to

the Democratic leadership bringing forward a cut-and-run policy when

these families have given their loved ones in this sacrifice.

I apologize to the Johnson family of Armuchee, Georgia, who

sacrificed their son, Justin. I apologize to the Saylor family from

Bremen, Georgia, who gave up their son, Paul. I apologize to the

Clayton family of Marietta, who misses dearly their son, Captain Hayes

Clayton. To Carey and Sally Brown, of Atlanta, I apologize to you for

the loss of your son, Tyler. From my wife's hometown of Newnan,

Georgia, I express my regret to Robert Stokely for the death of his

son, Mike. Finally, I apologize to the widow of Jack Hensley from

Marietta, a beheaded contract worker.

Mr. Speaker, what an appalling thing to do to these families, whose

sons gave the last full measure of devotion defending liberty and

fighting the terrorist Islamic extremists, to pull the rug out from

under them and say: We are not going to give victory a chance. We are

not even willing to wait until September. I think that it is appalling.

I am ashamed of the Democratic leadership. I apologize to these

families from my district who have given so much.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for

yielding. He would make a great Commander in Chief.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to salute my close friend and chairman of

the Armed Services Committee, Chairman Ike Skelton. I hold him in the

highest regard and I admire him dearly, though I must oppose his bill

and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear. This bill does not seek to clarify

our objectives or a path to victory. It does not offer an alternative

to the current plan being implemented by General Petraeus and

Ambassador Crocker.

Nowhere to be found are any new ideas or solutions or any talk of

curbing violence or compelling political reconciliation. Why? Because

there is no pressure on the Democrats to put forth any meaningful

ideas. They know that this bill is dead on arrival. The President has

vowed to veto it, and rightly so. This is a defeatist measure that

serves only to placate the Democrats' liberal base.

Mr. Speaker, a few things about this plan immediately jump out to me.

According to this legislation, a date certain withdrawal is to commence

120 days after the enactment of this bill. So why then does the bill

wait another 2 months before asking the President to formulate a

strategy? It is like asking a quarterback to throw Brother Ben passes

until the offensive coordinator can come up with a game plan.

Essentially, this bill says that after our troops have packed their

bags and have begun to come home, or maybe to deploy to Okinawa per the

Murtha plan, then we will receive this master plan detailing how to

provide for the security interests in Iraq.

As a physician, that is akin to calling a patient in for surgery

before you have done the exam, yanking somebody's heart out before you

have inspected the coronaries. In short, Mr. Speaker, it is a recipe

for disaster.

Mr. Speaker, the last troop surge deployed just 3 weeks ago, hardly a

significant time period for us to be here today judging the plan.

However, I do believe Congress should engage in an ongoing, rational

dialogue outlining the expectations of both our troops and the Iraqi

Government and the security forces. Nobody is here suggesting that we

shouldn't. And we will do it in September when we get the Petraeus

report based on that report. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot capitulate to

extremist views and sinister plans, which is what this bill would do by

sending a message to the terrorists that capitulation begins in 120

days.

I urge my colleagues, oppose this bill.