Mr. Speaker, first let me thank Chairman Skelton for

yielding, but also for his commitment to our Armed Forces, as the

daughter, Mr. Skelton, of a 25-year Army veteran who loves you dearly

and thanks you for supporting our troops.

As a cofounder of the Out of Iraq Caucus, I rise in support of this

bill. The President has dug us deep into a hole in Iraq. By setting a

clear timeline for the redeployment of United States troops, we are

standing with the American people to stop the digging. If we are to

climb out of this deep hole, we are going to have to make sure that

when our troops come home that they all come home. That means no

permanent bases. It means ending our blind commitment to arming and

training Iraqi security forces. It also means that come September, we

must use the power of our purse, and we must begin to fully fund the

safe redeployment of our young men and women and our contractors out of

Iraq.

The civil war in Iraq is raging within the very security forces we

are arming and training. Our weapons and expertise are being used for

sectarian violence and for killing Americans and Iraqi civilians. This

policy only further endangers our troops and fuels a civil war.

We must end the Bush administration's failed policy in Iraq. It has

failed. We must reconsider this blind commitment to arming and training

Iraqi security forces.

Let us support our troops, and I mean support our troops in a real

way, by bringing them home. This is the will of the American people.

That is the goal of the Out of Iraq Caucus. That is in the national

security interests of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, once again, for his

leadership and for yielding.