Mr. Speaker and Members, our strategy in

Iraq isn't working. It wasn't working 3 years ago, and it won't be

working another year from now. This isn't about defeat; it is about

reality.

Our troops have done a fantastic job. But to risk more lives, more

wounded, and to spend more than the half trillion dollars we have

already spent far exceeds any gain we can expect.

The best thing to do is to get our troops out, and get them out

immediately, and to make the Iraqis take control of their country. But,

today, I will vote for this bill which is a realistic shift in strategy

that every Member should be able to support.

Our focus should be on protecting our home front, stabilizing

Afghanistan, and stamping out terrorism across the globe. And we need

to start looking ahead by developing a containment plan to keep Iraq's

civil war from spilling over into other countries throughout the

region. Mr. Speaker, that is the only way to achieve victory.