Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

It is long past time that the disaster in Iraq is brought to an end.

The President's failed policy in Iraq has been repudiated by the

bipartisan Iraq Study Group, his inability to extricate the United

States from a quagmire in the desert has been rejected by the voters,

and we must change course. The President has proven himself to be

either blind to the reality on the ground in Iraq or simply uncaring of

what that reality means for the stability of the Middle East and the

security of the United States of America.

The President took this country to war on false premises. There were

no weapons of mass destruction, there was no imminent threat, there

were no operational ties to al-Qaeda. And the administration knew,

because we had U.N. weapons inspectors on the ground in Iraq for months

before the invasion, that the so-called ``intelligence'' pointing to an

active and dangerous Iraqi WMD program was simply wrong. Over and over

again, Hans Blix and his teams of inspectors would launch surprise

visits on sites that the CIA had pointed them to, and over and over

again the U.S. intelligence would be proved incorrect.

We have been fighting in Iraq longer than we fought in the Second

WorId War. Within a few months, we will have spent more money in Iraq

than we did in the more than 10 years we were in Vietnam. And while a

very small segment of our citizenry is being asked to make the ultimate

sacrifice for this adventure by sending their loved ones to war, the

Bush administration has given billions of dollars in tax breaks to the

richest Americans. If this war were truly a national struggle,

underpinned by the faith and support of the public, the sacrifices

would be shared by all instead of borne by the few.

Since President Bush infamously declared ``Mission Accomplished''

over 4 years ago, the situation has only gotten worse and worse. The

administration never had a plan to win the peace, and still does not,

and as a result the peace cannot be won. Our brave men and women in

uniform are caught in the midst of a multifaceted civil war which can

only be brought to an end with political reconciliation, not military

engagement.

Unfortunately, the President stubbornly refuses to understand the

nature of the conflict into which he has dragged us. He refuses to

change course, but more of the same cannot any longer be an option. We

must extricate ourselves from a sectarian civil war which is bleeding

our military every single day. This bill will begin the responsible

redeployment of US forces out of Iraq within 120 days, and complete

that deployment by April 1, 2008. On that date, we will have been in

Iraq for more than 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chairman Skelton for bringing this resolution

before us and I urge its adoption.