Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. If enacted,

this act would compel the President to begin redeploying our troops

from Iraq not later than 120 days after it becomes law. It creates the

appropriate framework and mechanisms for ensuring an orderly withdrawal

of our forces, and it puts the responsibility for Iraq's security where

it belongs--on the Iraqis.

But once again, the President has declared--long before this bill was

brought to the House floor--that he would veto it or any other measure

that attempted to correct his failed policy in Iraq. He has become

intransigent and disconnected from the reality on the ground in Iraq,

and indifferent to the will of the American people.

The President's much-vaunted ``surge'' has been underway for 6 months

now, and the results are obvious: Iraq is no less violent and chaotic

than before the ``surge'' began. Indeed, American casualties--both

killed and wounded--have been on the rise for nearly a year, long

before the surge started. By pouring more troops into Iraq, the

President has simply given the insurgents more targets to shoot at.

Perhaps, even worse, he is ruining our ability to work with other

countries to foster peace in the Middle East, and he is fanning the

flames of a conflagration that is now likely to engulf other countries

around Iraq.

The President's refusal to change course in Iraq is an enormous

injustice to the brave Americans he has put in harm's way. Our troops

accomplished the goal of removing Saddam Hussein from power more than 4

years ago. They accomplished the mission that they were given--and then

were given another mission for which they were not provided the proper

equipment and resources: being forced to act as referees in Iraq's

growing civil war. Our troops deserve better.

Moreover, the President and his advisors have continued their well-

established pattern of moving the goal post on his Iraq policy. Every

year, the Congress has been told that Iraq's security forces would be

ready to assume responsibility for their country's security in 12 to 18

months. And every time we reached that 12 to 18 month benchmark, the

Administration would reset the goal post another 12 to 18 months down

the road. The American people have had enough of this bait-and-switch

game. Iraqis must accept responsibility for their country's future.

Indeed, the President's troop increase has played into the hands of

Iraq's current government, which continues to claim that the additional

American forces are needed to quell the violence--without mentioning

that it is Prime Minister Maliki's own policies that are helping to

fuel that violence. Prime Minister Maliki's refusal to purge his

security forces of militias and sectarian death squads is a prime

reason why Sunni insurgents continue their attacks against Iraq's

security forces. Prime Minister Maliki's refusal to compromise on the

distribution of power and oil revenue among Iraqis is why the

insurgency has only gained in intensity over the past year. How long

will we continue to provide military and financial support to his

corrupt and ineffectual government? How much longer should our brave

fighting men and women serve as referees in the middle of a spreading

civil war?

If passed, this bill would compel Iraq's leaders to face the fact

that we will not continue to indefinitely provide for their country's

security with the lives of America's military men and women, and that

they must take the necessary political steps needed to end the

violence. It is for all of these reasons that I urge my colleagues on

both sides of the aisle to support this bill.