Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill that Bill

Young and I worked out.

Let me say this to the Members: We did everything we could to work

this out. We worked diligently. We sent a bill to the White House. They

vetoed it. We've done everything we could do to change it.

I feel a direction change in the air. I see the Iraqis are starting

to talk about redeployment. I see the administration starting to talk

about other countries being involved. I see them asking the U.N. to get

involved, something that should have happened a long time ago. But the

point is, I see a new political diplomatic effort which is beginning to

take effect here that's going to make a big difference.

But, in the meantime, we have to fund the troops. They'll run out in

the next few weeks. They'll run out of money. There's no question about

that. We send our staff continually to find out exactly how long it'll

go. There'll be tremendous problems if we weren't to fund the troops.

And let me say what's in this bill. There's $94 billion for the

Department of Defense military, and $24 billion of that is for reset

and re-equipment; $7.7 billion for four critical initiatives; $1.1

billion for family housing allowances; $1.6 billion for strategic

reserve readiness. We're trying to change. We're trying to stabilize

the military.

We've already found with some of the work that we've done a couple of

billion dollars in contracting that we can use and divert, and Bill

Young and I were talking about this earlier today; $1.6 billion for

strategic reserve; $34 billion for MRAP. That's the new vehicle that

resists the IED attacks. Almost $2 billion in additional funding for

health care; we have funded the health care that was not funded last

year. We put extra money in for Walter Reed. We put extra money in for

care giving. We put extra money in for all kind of things.

But let me just say this: I saw the other day, to show you the kind

of problem we have, I saw the other day a young fellow who got 20

percent disability when he got out of the military. And then he went to

the VA, and he got 100 percent disability. But the point is, he gets no

health care for his family, and he has four children. So even though he

gets 100 percent disability and he's taking care of himself, and he'll

probably be paralyzed at some point because he's getting worse instead

of better, and these are the kinds of things we're trying to fix.

So we have several problems. First of all, we have the short-term

problem; we have to take care of the funding for the military for the

next 4 months. As Chairman Obey says, we need to take care for an extra

2 months from the original bill we passed.

Then we need to start to work on a nurse shortage. We're looking at

paying the nurses $25,000 more. We're looking at doctor shortages. We

are looking at an administrative shortage in the hospital. We, finally,

Bill Young and I worked, and we got General Casey going to all the

hospitals finding out what the shortages are. We've got a lot of work

to do here, and this bill starts us in that direction.

But let me just end this by saying, we're now in a position where I

see that, by September, we'll be able to judge. When we pass our bill,

and the 2008 bill will come up as a basic defense bill, then we're

going to hold the supplemental until September. By that time, we will

know that the surge is working or not working. And I predict, and I've

been right in every one of my predictions, that incidents are going to

continue to increase; oil production will not be above pre-war level;

and that electricity will not be above pre-war level. And incidents

will continue to increase, and more and more people will be killed by

IEDs.

So I do not wish for a bad result, but I see the administration

finally changing and finally recognizing this can't be won militarily.

I think we're moving in the right direction.

It's very painful because people are frustrated. They'd like to see

this thing over overnight. All of us are frustrated. But we have to

take what we can get, and I think here we have a good bill, as good a

bill as we could put together.

The two bills put together are good bills. I hope that everybody will

vote for both bills because one takes care of the troops and the

funding that's necessary, and the other takes care of all the other,

the change in direction that we're trying to get in the military.

I would request that all the Members vote for both amendments to the

bill.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that the Iraqi Legislature is

going on a 2-month vacation. A 2-month vacation they are taking. We

have been there 4 1/2 years. And the people that give us the report is

not Jack Murtha. The people that give us the report is the Joint Staff.

And if you read with real glasses, you see what is happening in Iraq.

You see incidents erupt. You see people getting killed. You see that

nine people were killed just yesterday. You see that the IEDs are

killing more people. More people were killed in the last 4 months than

at any other time during the war.

We are trying to help you. We are trying to change the direction. We

are trying to win it politically. We are trying to win this war. That

is what we are trying to do. You can't win it if you don't look at it

objectively. The gentleman is looking at it with rosy glasses instead

of looking at it realistically. He is not looking at it objectively.