Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of this supplemental package. Obviously, we need to

get the money to the troops in the field, and, also, my State of

Louisiana needs these additional funds as well.

But I want to point something out that has not been discussed in the

debate. The President called for 10 new provincial reconstruction teams

for Baghdad. Upon arrival in Baghdad, General Petraeus has asked for

14, four additional PRTs. State and USAID cannot really adequately plan

to put this into effect. Particularly, they are phase 3, where they get

the personnel in position. So the much-needed money for the State

Department is in this supplemental. And for those of us who are

interested in seeing the political and economic side of our plan

enacted and successful in Iraq, it greatly depends on getting this

funding to the State Department.

So I urge our colleagues to support this supplemental package,

particularly those of you who are interested in the economic and

political side of this, because if we are going to push for

reconciliation, it is clearly critical to have these State Department

personnel on the ground providing that on-the-ground pressure to move

toward reconciliation in Iraq.