Mr. Speaker, I have never supported the

war in Iraq. From the very outset of the conflict, I have stood as an

ardent opponent of the war, and voted against the War Resolution, House

Joint Resolution 114, which ``authorized the use of United States Armed

Forces against Iraq,'' when it came before the House of Representatives

on October 8, 2002. I have argued from the beginning of this conflict

that the President intentionally misled the American public by

supplying them with spurious grounds for going to war.

I cannot, in good conscience, return to my district over the Memorial

Day recess having cast a vote to continue funding, and henceforth,

provide financial support for the continuation of this horrible war.

Moreover, the bill's lack of a timetable for troop withdrawal is not

acceptable. This is a war without any end in sight, without any sort of

deadlines or oversight, and the administration will continue to throw

away billions and billions of dollars in this conflict if we cannot

pass a bill with timelines or restrictions.

Clearly, the November midterm elections demonstrated that the

majority of the American public is bitterly opposed to the war in Iraq.

Just today in fact, a New York Times/CBS poll showed that ``over 61

percent of Americans say that the United States should have stayed out

of Iraq, while over 75 percent say that things [in Iraq] are going

badly'' (New York Times, May 24, 2007). I stand with the American

people today, and although I wholeheartedly support our troops, I

cannot support a bill to continue funding a terrible war while the

White House refuses to accede to readiness standards or any other

measures that restrict their oil war in Iraq.

It is estimated that we have already spent over a trillion dollars of

taxpayer money in Iraq. This is funding which we could be using for

social services for our own citizens. Indeed, important items like

education, prescription drugs, health care and homeland security goes

underfunded while a disastrous war, unwillingly being paid for by U.S.

taxpayers, wages on.

And yet the administration continues to request blank checks to be

used at their discretion. A perfect example of this is the money sent

over there in the period, between May 2003 and June 2004, when our

military was carrying huge, wrapped stacks of $100 bills over to Iraq--

$12 billion total--in cash. This money was sent over there without

oversight, without any sort of accountability, and many are now worried

that the same insurgent groups that are battling against our troops may

have bought their weapons with this money. And the argument put forward

by the

Bush administration for sending money over in this way was that Iraq

was without a functioning banking system. This utterly ludicrous

reasoning is nearly as preposterous as their lies and poor reasons for

going to war in the first place, like scaring the American people into

believing that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, which, to this

day, have not been discovered.

President Bush has asked for a blank check and the American people

have stamped his account ``insufficient funds.''