Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill. We

cannot provide a blank check to this President regarding our

involvement in Iraq.

I've heard a lot of talk about September--that it will be clear by

September whether or not the ``surge'' is working. I've heard these

comments even as this week the press has reported that another, little

publicized ``surge'' is already underway--one that when completed will

result in some 200,000 American troops being on the ground in Iraq

before the year is out. We know now the ``surge'' is not working.

I cannot vote to provide this President with more money to send more

troops to try to quell Iraq's civil war. I remind my colleagues that in

less than a month's time, Iraq's parliament is going to adjourn for

most of the summer, taking a two month vacation while American kids are

left to dodge sniper fire and IEDs. Where are the Iraqi security

forces? What happened to ``As they stand up, we'll stand down?''

This month, the Defense Department reported a total of 337,000 Iraqi

police and soldiers had been trained and equipped. They now outnumber

our troops by two to one. Yet the administration has repeatedly refused

to give the House Armed Services Committee information on the training

program for Iraqi security forces and how their unit readiness is

assessed. I suspect Secretary Gates is holding back those answers

because he knows we're going to ask what we have bought with the money

we have spent on Iraq's security forces--more than $15 billion. But I

think most of us know what that $15 billion has bought us: an Iraqi

security force that is corrupt, sectarian, infiltrated by insurgents,

and hopelessly ineffective.

We can't keep ratifying a failed policy; that's not what the American

people expect or need from us. I urge my colleagues to oppose the

resolution.