Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for

yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as has been said many times this evening and for the

last days and weeks and months, indeed for years, we have Americans in

harm's way in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in the Horn of Africa. Around the

world, these Americans need our help, and they deserve our help.

It has been over 3 months since the President sent to us his request

for emergency supplemental funding for our troops. It is time for us to

stop playing politics and step up and do our part. We need to

appropriate all of the funds our troops need, and we need to do it now.

The distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee said this

afternoon that our young men and women are entitled to have the funding

that they need. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this bill does not give

them the funding that they need. It has been made very clear that the

President will veto this legislation, and I believe that he should. He

showed us that he would veto legislation that shackled our generals and

made it impossible for our troops to do the job. This piecemeal

approach, the 60-day funding, is unacceptable.

We have men and women not only in harm's way, but men and women here

who are already starting to feel the pain of the restriction in funds.

Secretary Gates said they are shifting funds now. It is not fair for

our young men and women to serve overseas and come back here and not

have what they need even here in the States. We need to move forward on

legislation that genuinely funds the troops and allows us a chance for

success.

I would like to close with just a couple of comments. General

Petraeus said to his troops when he took over that the way there was

going to be hard, but hard was not hopeless. As I said on this floor

weeks ago, this legislation makes hard hopeless. In fact, this

legislation is hopeless because it will not become law. We need to step

up and take care of these troops.