Mr. Speaker, today is a landmark day in our efforts to

end the war in Iraq. There is nothing more offensive to a democracy

than a war being waged against the people's will. Yet that is the

situation our soldiers face every day.

Tonight, the House has a chance to reflect the will of the people on

the most important issue of our time. We have the opportunity to vote

to reunite our soldiers with their families. Let this body speak with

one booming voice that cannot be denied. Mr. President--no more surges.

Bring them home.

I have opposed this war from day one. But now is not the time to talk

about the past. It's time to talk about the future of this country.

Under the legislation proposed by my friend from Massachusetts, Mr.

McGovern, most of our soldiers and contractors in Iraq will be back

with us in 9 months.

The Iraq war has ended the lives of nearly 150 New Yorkers, and

nearly 3,400 Americans. The young people we have lost in Iraq are as

diverse as America itself--they are people of color, teenagers, women,

immigrants of many faiths, and many are from my own home in Brooklyn.

Tens of thousands more are severely injured and will need our care for

the rest of their lives.

We do not serve Iraq by staying there. While our military can help

the Iraqi Government with security, no surge can resolve Iraq's bitter

political differences. Our diplomatic efforts will carry more weight

after we leave. We can better ask Iraq's neighbors to help when we are

Iraq's partner, not its occupier.

It's time to bring our troops home to their families. By supporting

Speaker Pelosi's package of H.R. 2237, H.R. 2206, and H.R. 2207, we can

achieve critical domestic priorities, fund our soldiers and veterans,

and begin a swift withdrawal from Iraq. I urge the support of my

colleagues.