Mr. Speaker, 4 years that have been

difficult for our country, we have had to watch the administration

bungle the war in Iraq in just about every way imaginable. As war

became civil war in Iraq, we watched our colleagues on the other side

of the aisle act as a rubber stamp for this misguided war while

refusing to ask the pertinent questions, the questions we were asking,

the questions the American people were asking. And we watched as 3,200

of our brave troops lost their lives in another country's civil war,

while 24,000 came home with permanent injuries and billions upon

billions of our taxpayers' dollars have been sunk into the quicksand

Iraq has become.

This will be the case no more.

With the scores of oversight hearings our leadership has already

conducted this year and now with this legislation, we are, for the

first time, bringing accountability, timelines and end to the

mismanaged war in Iraq.

Congress is no longer a rubber stamp.

The President has asked us time and again for money for this war

without any strings. This, despite the fact that they let many of our

troops go to battle without the proper equipment, and that they can't

even account for $12 billion of taxpayer money for reconstruction.

With this bill, we will bring accountability as well as money for our

injured soldiers who have been neglected. We are adding a total of $3.4

billion for the military health care system, including money to address

the problems at Walter Reed and money for head injuries and post-

traumatic stress disorder.

For 4 years, the administration's war policies have been risking

lives and spending this country's treasure without any accountability.

This legislation will end the free ride and it will end the war.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor.