Mr. Chairman, I am proud to cosponsor this amendment

offered by my friend from California. As she clearly stated, this

amendment would cut $19.2 billion of Pentagon spending and bring the

overall spending down to $500 billion while at the same time protecting

our troops and their medical needs.

Even with this cut, the $500 billion that remains amounts to a

generous appropriation for the Defense Department. With this cut, the

Pentagon

budget would still be greater than the next 10 countries' defense

budgets combined. That's right: military spending from China, Japan,

Germany, the U.K., Russia, India, France, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil

combined would still trail our United States' military Pentagon budget

by hundreds of billions of dollars.

I just don't understand how someone can stand here and say half a

trillion dollars isn't enough. How many more outdated Cold War weapons

systems do we need? How many helicopters with unreliable mechanical

systems do we need? How many fighter jets causing pilot blackouts do we

need? How many more private defense contractors do we have to pay and

overpay?

At some point we have to say enough is enough. It's time, Mr.

Chairman, for a reality check. It's time to accept that we spend too

much on our bloated defense budget. I mean, ask any other Department or

agency if they would make do with half a trillion dollars. I think we

all know what that answer is--they would be delighted.

I urge you all, vote ``yes,'' bring some sanity back to our budget.

I yield back the balance of my time.