Mr. Chairman, this amendment would designate $10 million

of economic support funds for the Community Action Program, also known

as CAP, in Iraq. That is what this amendment does.

I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that a real hero in this House is

Mr. Kolbe who has made sure that these programs have flourished. In my

11 trips to Iraq, I am absolutely convinced the best thing we have done

in all of our expenditures on the economic side of the table has been

to support these CAP agencies.

There were five NGOs, nongovernment organizations. There are still

four left. They stand potentially to lose money in June or July and not

have the carry-over into the next fiscal year. What this amendment

ensures, with Mr. Kolbe's help, is that that money will be extended so

that we can keep them in place.

When we talk about keeping them in place, for instance, one of these

nongovernment organizations, and it is typical, has about 130 employees

who are all Iraqis throughout Iraq and only seven who are not Iraqis,

one or two Europeans, one or two eastern Europeans, and one or two

Americans; and when you add up the others we are talking about over 600

Iraqis. And what are they doing? They are rebuilding schools, they are

repairing water and sewer lines, building health clinics, helping what

takes place in the schools. Just a host of other infrastructure and

development projects.

In the report that was done by the Appropriations Committee, and I

would like to read from it, it expresses my sentiments better than I

could. This is what the report says, ``The CAP program has generated a

network of more than 1,300 community associations across 17

governorates in Iraq, and has trained 17,281 community association

members.''

The January, 2005, audit by the Office of Inspector General USAID

found that the CAP, ``achieved 98 percent of its intended outputs,

including citizen participation, inner-government cooperation, local

government cooperation, local employment generation, and consideration

of environmental concerns.''

The bottom line is, these programs are working extraordinarily well.

And I thank Mr. Kolbe, and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee

as well, for ensuring that these organizations do not have to close up

shop, and fire a whole host of Iraqis.

I would like to just say, in addition, I am a strong supporter of

making sure that we do everything we can to have the Iraqis succeed. It

is astounding that last year they had three elections. They established

a government. That government established a constitutional convention.

They created a constitutional convention.

Then we had a second election, ratified by 79 percent of the Iraqis

who voted. And then, once the constitution was established, December of

this last year, 76 percent of all Iraqi adults voted, not 76 of those

who registered, 76 percent. And 30 percent of their new assembly is

made up of women. That is extraordinary progress on the political side.

We are training their police, their border patrol and their army. I

wish we had not allowed it to disintegrate.

But now they are getting to critical mass, so we are seeing the

military side, we are seeing the political side. This is the economic

side that Mr. Kolbe is focusing on.

Mr. Chairman, if I can just add, reclaiming my time,

evidently not one of these projects done by these organizations have

had to deal with assaults by Iraqis, have had a building or something

which was then destroyed by insurgents. They have all survived.

I thank Mr. Kolbe from the bottom of my heart for his help in this

effort.

Mr. Chairman, there is a concern obviously with continuing

resolutions. Is there a way to deal with that issue?