I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to the rule and the bill.

The tide is turning in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, but nothing changes on

Capitol Hill. Here we go again. Another Democrat plan for redeployment

from Iraq, tying some $50 billion in necessary combat funds to a

Democrat plan for withdrawal.

With unambiguous evidence of progress on the ground in Iraq, the

Democrats in Congress seem to have added denial to their agenda of

retreat and defeat. And the evidence of our progress is unambiguous.

I have seen many different Iraqs in my five trips, some hopeful, some

not hopeful. But the news coming out of Iraq just in recent days from

independent and official sources is encouraging.

U.S. military fatalities are down sharply: 101 Americans lost their

lives in uniform in June; 39 in October. Iraqi civilian deaths are down

sharply: 1,791 casualties in August; 750 in October. Mortar rocket

attacks by insurgents in October were the lowest since February 2006.

Iraqi officials say they plan to reduce checkpoints, ease curfews, and

open some roads around Baghdad because of the improving security

situation. And this weekend, the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-

Maliki said that sectarian violence between Shia and Sunni in the

neighborhoods of Baghdad has declined by more than 75 percent in the

last 12 months. And yet here we are again, another plan for retreat and

defeat in Iraq.

And it is not just the official sources that say we have made

progress. The Associated Press just reported, ``Twilight brings traffic

jams to the main shopping district of this once affluent corner of

Baghdad, and hundreds of people stroll past well-stocked vegetable

stands, bakeries, and butcher shops.''

The Washington Post recently wrote, ``The number of attacks against

U.S. soldiers has fallen to levels not seen since before the February

2006 bombing of a Shia shrine in Samarra that touched off waves of

sectarian killing.''

And the New York Times noted just last week, `` `American forces have

routed al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, the Iraqi militant network from every

neighborhood in Baghdad,' a top general reported today, `allowing

American troops involved in the surge to depart as planned.' ''

I urge my colleagues to reject again this Democrat plan for

withdrawal as a part of the supplemental appropriations bill, but I

urge my countrymen to give our soldiers a chance. Freedom and stability

are beginning to take hold in Iraq. We cannot lose faith in ourselves

or in our fighting men and women.

It would be Winston Churchill who exhorted his own people as follows:

``Nothing can save England if she will not save herself. If we lose

faith in ourselves, in our capacity to guide and govern, if we lose our

will to live, then indeed our story is told. If, while on all sides

foreign nations are every day asserting a more aggressive and militant

nationalism by arms and trade, we remain paralyzed by our own

theoretical doctrines or plunged into the stupor of after-war

exhaustion, then indeed all the croakers predict will come true and our

ruin will be swift and final.'' So said the man who saved western

civilization.

To my countrymen and to my colleagues, I say again: Reject this

legislation, give our soldiers in a widening and undeniable success in

Iraq a chance, and we will all, Republicans and Democrats, celebrate

someday a free and democratic Iraq that will be a legacy for our

children and our grandchildren for generations to come.