I thank the gentleman for the time.

All of us in this Chamber and in this Nation support our troops. They

have fought bravely, with love of this great country uppermost in their

hearts. They have done all that we have asked them to do. They have

done their job well. And now in this Congress, Mr. Speaker, we must do

ours.

The President has indicated that he thinks this war will continue for

another decade. But, Mr. Speaker, we must not concede to a 10-year war.

Over 3,850 brave American lives have been lost; 163 Ohio soldiers have

been killed; more than 28,000 of our Nation's finest have been wounded.

The year 2007 has been the deadliest year for U.S. troops since this

war began 4 1/2 years ago.

Our troops have been stretched woefully thin, exposing this Nation to

greater risk, not less. We have already spent over $450 billion on the

war in Iraq. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated

that the President's war policies could cost $2.4 trillion in the next

decade. And the President insists in getting that money that it come

with no strings, no oversight, no accountability, no questions asked.

And, in return, he offers to the American people and to our brave

troops no end in sight. It is time for a new direction. We must not

proceed further down the road to a 10-year war.

This bill requires a transition in the mission of U.S. forces in Iraq

from combat to force and diplomatic protection. It provides for

targeted counterterrorism operations. And this bill prohibits

deployment to Iraq of troops who are not fully equipped and fully

trained. It prohibits the use of torture, as described in the Army

Field Manual. And it changes direction from the 10-year war plan being

offered by the President toward a responsible plan redeploying our

troops, while providing our troops with the resources they need.

When I visited Iraq, I saw some of the hardships and the obstacles

our troops face, and I also saw the commitment and dedication in each

of those men and women. They truly took my breath away. They deserve a

policy that is worthy of their commitment and their sacrifice.

The bill before us today gives our troops the support, the equipment,

the training they need to responsibly redeploy. It repairs the

readiness of our military and refocuses our efforts on fighting

terrorism around the world.

Last November, people across the Nation cast their ballots seeking a

change in direction. After more than 4 years and countless taxpayer

dollars, this Congress has a responsibility to tell this President that

the status quo is not acceptable. It's time to bring a responsible end

to the war in Iraq and to focus on fighting terrorism and protecting

the Nation.