Mr. Speaker, the odds of success in Iraq are not enhanced

by Congress continuing to act as a rubber stamp for President Bush. We

need a change in strategic vision in Iraq.

This resolution says that setting a timetable somehow is a Communist

plot, but, in fact, the President himself set timetables in Iraq when

he set timetables to have transitional elections in Iraq. He set

timetables for elections because it focused the Iraqis to demand

performance, and that is what we should do in setting a timetable to

transition to Iraqis true sovereignty for three reasons.

Reason number one, we should no longer provide a crutch for an

indefinite period of time to the Iraqi politicians. We need to focus

their minds on making the compromises that are necessary if a real

government is going to be followed. We cannot fall into the trap of

enabling Iraqi politicians to continue their bickering. They need a

solution.

Number two, people say a timetable will encourage more violence. Let

me ask you this: If there is a young unemployed man who is angry about

foreign troops marching on his neighborhood, what do you think will

make him more angry and more likely to plant an IED, the fact that we

tell him we are going to leave in a year or so, or tell him we are

going to stay there as long as George Bush says so? We need to tell

them that we are going to come home.

The third reason we ought to think about this is that in our

briefings we have received, we have been told that the Iraqi military

will be fully trained by next December 2006, and it is realistic, it is

commonsense, it is a measure to focus the Iraqi politicians on the

necessity of seeking compromise, to say that we should begin

transitioning next year and substantially conclude by December 2006.

During that time I have one message for the administration. They need

to do a better job arming the Iraqi military forces. They need radios,

they need Humvees, they need logistics. We cannot allow that force to

fall apart. We need to defeat this resolution.