Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today it was reported that al Qaeda is as strong now as

it was prior to the 9/11 attacks. Meanwhile, our troops who have served

with honor and distinction are mired in the middle of a religious civil

war in Iraq. The men and women of Iowa's National Guard have faced

multiple redeployments at great sacrifice to them and their families.

The American people continue to demand a new way forward in Iraq.

Even Members of the President's own party are demanding change. We must

immediately begin to chart a new course.

I'm a cosponsor of the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act because

it provides for the safe withdrawal of combat troops by April 1, 2008.

We must bring home our troops safely and responsibly. We must also

redirect our efforts against terrorism.

This bill represents a step forward, and I urge its passage and the

rule.