Mr. Speaker, today I'm proud to join with a unified

Democratic Caucus to cast my vote in support of H.R. 4156, the Orderly

and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act. This legislation

marks the first time redeployment language has been attached to

funding, and includes the strongest worded language to date, by stating

Congress's explicit commitment to end the war in Iraq as safely and

quickly as possible and bring our troops home.

The letter my colleagues Lynn Woolsey, Barbara Lee and I sent to

President Bush stating that we would only support funding for the

redeployment of our troops has grown from 70 to 92

signatories. As the letter stated, and as the title of this legislation

echoes, we choose to support our military and look out for the best

interests of this country by funding an orderly and responsible

redeployment from Iraq.

While this bill is far from perfect, there's a lot in this bill to be

proud of. This bill requires the redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq

within 30 days. It prohibits the deployment of U.S. troops not deemed

fully trained, and it effectively bans the awful practice of

waterboarding by any affiliate of a U.S. agency. I applaud the shared

commitment of the Democratic Members in both the House and Senate to

end the war in Iraq.

I share the public's dismay at the slow pace of Congress's action to

end President Bush's failed war. It is, of course, the administration,

not Congress, who ultimately deserves the blame for this terrible war.

Before every major debate on the Iraq war, like clockwork, President

Bush fires up the propaganda machine to twist reality and obscure the

facts on the ground.

Those who stand in the way of real change in Iraq must be held

accountable. They must not be allowed to quietly throw wrenches in the

gears of change slowly rotating within this country.

A large and growing majority of Americans now believe it was a

mistake to invade Iraq and that Congress should force a change in the

President's irresponsible policies.