Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Democratic

efforts to end the War in Iraq.

We are considering two bills today, both of which are significant

improvements over legislation passed by Rubber Stamp Republican

Congresses over the last four years. The Iraq Accountability Act

provides funding for the war, but only until July. After receiving a

report on the progress in Iraq--or lack thereof--Congress would then

decide whether or not to extend funding through September. Unlike the

legislation President Bush demanded, this bill holds him and his

administration accountable for concrete economic, political and

security benchmarks in Iraq.

Though I appreciate the attempt to keep President Bush on a ``short

leash,'' I cannot vote to continue funding a tragic war that has

already taken the lives of thousands of American troops and tens of

thousands of Iraqis. Every time I hear the President lie to the

American people about the situation in Iraq and about the patriotism of

those who dare criticize his many foreign policy failings, I can't help

but think he needs a muzzle, not a leash.

It's past time for us to get out of this mess and for our troops to

come home from Iraq.

That's why I'm excited to join my colleagues in supporting the Iraq

Redeployment Act. This bill requires the withdrawal of American troops

to begin in the next three months and be completed in the next nine. It

also prohibits funding for the ``surge'' and permanent United

States military bases in Iraq. My constituents have been calling for

withdrawal for years and I'm proud for vote for it on the House floor

today.