Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 2237 with certain

reservations. Very few bills that pass this House are written exactly

as each of us would like. My own plan for the redeployment of U.S.

forces would not take this exact form. However, the general thrust of

this plan is in the right direction. It establishes a timetable to

extricate U.S. forces from a bloody, sectarian civil war while

providing the flexibility to carry out other missions both inside and

outside Iraq for the purpose of going after al Qaeda and other

terrorist organizations with global reach. It also provides for U.S.

forces to train and equip the Iraqi Security Forces, and to protect the

U.S. Embassy and diplomatic missions.

Mr. Speaker, I preferred the approach taken by the House in the

Supplemental Appropriations bill we recently passed. Unfortunately, the

President vetoed that measure. He wants the funds without any

accountability. We cannot give the President a blank check. While I do

not agree with every provision in this bill, it sends the right

message--it is time to end the President's failed policies in Iraq and

change direction.