I thank the distinguished chairman of the

Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, when the President vetoed this bill, he said it was

because he felt that decisions like this should be left to the

military, not the politicians. But Mr. Speaker, the fact is that when

the President declared that Iraq was part of the global war on

terrorism, there was not one single military officer who agreed. That

was a political decision made in the White House to go into this war.

Had he listened to the military, we wouldn't be in this war.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that none of us have been asked to sacrifice

anything in pursuit of this war. The sacrifice has fallen exclusively

on the backs of our military and their families.

Mr. Speaker, this week, the 2,108th child was told that they will

never see their mommy or daddy again because they will never return

from Iraq. How many more children have to lose their parents before

this policy is reversed, Mr. Speaker? 3,351 American soldiers have lost

their lives. More than 24,000 have been seriously wounded. This past

month, more than 100 soldiers lost their lives, the deadliest month on

record.

Things are getting worse rather than better.

The British Broadcasting Corporation and the American Broadcasting

Corporation just completed an extensive survey of Iraqis. It turns out

that 82 percent have lost confidence in U.S. policy in Iraq, that 86

percent have lost a member of their household due to violence, and the

majority feel that this policy is ineffective, and in fact, they were

better off under Saddam Hussein than under the American occupation.

Mr. Speaker, the State Department just reported that the number of

terrorist incidents has gone up by 25 percent, most of them in Iraq.

This policy has been a failure. I urge a rejection of the President's

veto of this bill. This bill will set the course that the American

people are demanding.