Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of overriding the

President's misguided veto of H.R. 1591, U.S. Troop Readiness,

Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act. We need a new direction

in Iraq.

This legislation contains every penny the President has requested for

our troops in Iraq and adds $4 billion more. The bill includes

additional funding for military health care and military housing and

provides $1.8 billion not requested by the President to begin meeting

the unmet health care needs of veterans returning from Iraq and

Afghanistan.

As the Representative for Fort Bragg, I strongly support our troops,

their families and their communities. Our superb military men and women

have done everything that has been asked of them and done it well.

America's military victory in Iraq was achieved when Saddam Hussein's

regime was toppled. But the Administration went to war without a plan

to win the peace, and our military victory has been bogged down in a

mindless occupation led by bitterly stubborn politicians here at home.

Just last month, Vice President Cheney insisted that Saddam Hussein

had been allied with Osama bin Laden's terrorist network despite all

evidence to the contrary. Last night, the President vetoed this

legislation in favor of his failed strategy of stay the course. The

leadership of this Administration continues to be in a state of denial,

and Congress must assert its rightful role in our nation's

policymaking. I will vote to override this veto for a new direction in

Iraq, and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.