Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

support of H.R. 3087, and I thank my colleagues, all of you, for

getting it here to the floor. I voted for this bill in the Armed

Services Committee with bipartisan support. It passed 55-2, and I think

this is the beginning of the way. I'm happy that we're trying to find a

way to move in Iraq.

We are here today because after more than 4 years of the President's

war, it has become painfully clear that the administration didn't

adequately plan for this war. Plan. Planning. And this is what this

bill is about. And that the administration really didn't understand the

substantial investment that it was going to take for American troops

beyond the initial invasion. In fact, when the President declared

``Mission Accomplished'' on May 1, 2003, we had only lost 139 of our

troops in Iraq; however, since then, 3,660 of our troops have been

lost. So the American people have called for a redeploying of our

troops from Iraq, and we need to start doing it, and we need a plan to

do that redeployment.

So today, with this legislation, Congress is mandating that proper

planning be done, so that whenever the redeployment begins, our troops

will be brought home safely to their families.