Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I think all of us know by now that the military occupation in Iraq,

which is referred to as a war but is really a military occupation, is

an increasing disaster. We all know that now more than 4,000 military

personnel have lost their lives, tens of thousands have been injured.

We ought to be taking decisive action to put an end to that illegal,

disastrous military occupation.

This bill is presented as a means of attempting to do so. But it is a

false presentation. It does nothing to that effect. This bill, if it is

passed and signed into law, would simply require a plan to be developed

within 60 days after that signing and then another 90 days an

additional plan, another 90 days an additional plan. So what we are

likely to see, unless this Congress is able to take more decisive, more

progressive, more positive action, is four, five, maybe even six plans

coming out of this administration and no responsible action taken with

regard to the disastrous circumstances that occur on the basis of this

illegal military occupation.

This legislation does nothing productive to deal with this very

difficult, dangerous, and disastrous situation. The circumstances for

the security of this country have worsened as a result of this illegal

invasion and the subsequent military occupation, and that worsening

continues.

One of the other things in this legislation is also, frankly, very

interesting. Congress finds, it says, the following: that the President

has the ability to use the Armed Forces as the President determined

necessary and appropriate in order to defend the national security of

the United States against the continuing threat posed by the Government

of Iraq at that time, at the time that that resolution was passed back

in October of 2002, which a number of us voted against.

What this suggests is that that was the proper thing to do at that

time. It was not the proper thing to do in October of 2002. It would

have been much more proper if this Congress realized at that time what

I believe most of us realize now: that the alleged justification for

the illicit, illegal invasion of Iraq, the idea that there was a

connection between Iraq and the attack of September 11, that Iraq had

so-called weapons of mass destruction, that there was an alleged

nuclear weapons

development program in Iraq, and that there was some connection between

Iraq and al Qaeda, all of which was false. Now, many did not realize

that at that time and subsequently they voted for it. Many of us did

realize it and voted against it.

We should not have anything asserting in any legislation that comes

before this House anything that suggests that what was presented at

that time to justify that resolution authorizing this administration to

engage in this illegal invasion and the subsequent disastrous

occupation of that sovereign country was true when it was all

falsified, intentionally and purposefully falsified.

So I could appreciate what some people may think they are doing here,

and I certainly have a great deal of respect and affection for the

Members who are the sponsors of this legislation. But I tell you, you

look at this and you will say to yourself if this legislation passes,

what it will authorize is a continuing falsified plan, much of which

can be classified, coming from this administration, plan after plan,

and the remaining military forces will be in that country until

sometime after January of 2009.

This doesn't do what we are supposed to do. We shouldn't be passing

it.