Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3087,

which requires the President, in coordination with the Departments of

State and Defense, to transmit to the Congress a strategy for the

redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq. The bill also requires the

Secretary of Defense, not later than 60 days after the enactment of

this act, and every 90 days thereafter, to submit to congressional

defense committees a report on the status of this planning. In

addition, the bill requires the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman

of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to brief these same congressional

committees on the matters contained in the report. Furthermore, the

legislation contains ``sense of Congress'' language that the

contingency planning should: address the protection of Iraqi forces,

Iraqi nationals, third party nationals and U.S. civilians who have

assisted the U.S. mission, enhance the ability of the United States to

fight AI-Qaeda and affiliated terrorist organizations, and preserve

military equipment necessary to defend the national security interests

of the United States. Additional provisions in the bill include

supporting and equipping Iraqi armed forces to take full responsibility

for their own security.

This resolution is an important component of Congress's oversight of

the Iraq war, and compels the administration to engage with Congress on

the planning for responsible redeployment of our combat troops. The

President's Iraq policy of putting our brave men and women in the Armed

Forces in the position of policing the streets of Baghdad and other

Iraqi cities in the midst of a sectarian war is the wrong strategy and

one that continually puts them in harms way. I will continue to

advocate for an immediate start to the responsible redeployment of our

combat troops from Iraq, but in the meantime, it is important to garner

as many votes as possible within the Congress to send a strong message

to the administration that it must begin to plan for a comprehensive

redeployment of our forces to provide for the best possible protection

of our brave men and women in uniform.