Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this supplemental funding is one of the most important

bills that Congress will be considering this year, and I am very

disappointed that the Democrat leadership has mandated that this bill

come to the floor under a closed rule.

I have heard the Democrats say that this is not a perfect rule. It is

perfectly wrong; that is what it is.

What does a closed rule mean? It means voices will not be heard. It

means ideas will be silenced. A closed rule means that no amendments

will be allowed to the bill, that no alternative plan to fully fund the

troops will be allowed.

I only have 2 minutes to discuss this, not enough time to explain to

the American people how this puts our troops at risk or question why

the Speaker believes she has the right to micromanage the war in Iraq.

We spent a whole week debating the nonbinding resolution on Iraq, and

now we have only 4 hours of how to best fund and support our troops. It

is not enough time to explain title IX, where the language of the bill

prevents our troops from receiving reinforcements or replacements. It

is not enough time to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the

supplemental will fulfill the goals of al Qaeda's leader al-Zawahiri.

It is not enough time to show the American people how this supplemental

replaces the Iraqi National Congress by imposing on their government

demands, demands to change their Constitution, demands to change their

laws.

This is an unfair rule that represents broken promises for a more

open Congress made by the Speaker. This is a rule that should be

defeated.

I am going to vote ``no'' on this, and I encourage my colleagues to

also vote ``no'' on this rule. It is an unfair bill.