Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule for

H.R. 1591. In fact, Madam Chair, you have set the rule, and we need

rules of the road. That is why we need to pass H.R. 1591.

This is not the average spending bill taken up by the Congress. This

legislation represents a very personal decision that needs to be made

by each and every Member of this body about the future of our Nation.

The fact is, and I address, if I may through the Chair, my respected

brothers and sisters in the opposition.

The fact is that this bill was not necessitated by the acts of

Congress. No, no. This supplemental is necessary because our Nation

faces an emergency due to the multitude of failures from this

administration. Why are you carrying their water?

Funding will be provided to make certain that the disgrace of Walter

Reed will not be repeated. This supplemental makes certain that our

troops are not redeployed in and out of Iraq without proper rest,

without proper preparation. We all support that, don't we? And our

support in Iraq will be brought to an end responsibly.

We recently observed the 4-year anniversary of the war in Iraq. And

yet during those 4 years, Congress stood on the sidelines providing

endless funding without questioning. No more; no more.

Today, Congress finally fulfills its constitutionally mandated

responsibility, provides real oversight for the

funding of this war, and holds this administration accountable for its

actions. That is what this rule, that is what this legislation is all

about.

We have the opportunity here, all of us, to undo some of the severe

damage caused by the unnecessary war. I ask Members to vote for the

rule and for the bill.