Mr. Speaker, I rise today on

behalf of the people of America who want a new way forward in Iraq and

expect Congress to act accordingly.

My constituents in North Texas continue to grieve the loss of their

sons and daughters in Iraq and voice their utmost concerns for our

troops' safety. They deserve answers from me and from our government

regarding the consequence of the monetary and casualty cost of the Iraq

war.

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom have affected

the lives of countless Americans. There are over 3,000 troops from the

great state of Texas that have been wounded during duty and many

thousands more from across the United States.

Despite the struggles our soldiers face both on the field and the

home front, they are thankful for the support they have been receiving

from their fellow Americans. They share their concerns none of which

are for themselves, but of their fellow comrades and families. If given

a chance, they are willing to return to the field and fight for this

nation. I stand here today, humbled by these men and women.

The current administration has recently submitted data reflecting

that violence in Iraq has decreased, but this data has been skewed. The

data does not reflect the truth. Violence in Iraq has increased.

It is our responsibility to care for the best interest of our

soldiers. It is our responsibility to protect our troops from

unnecessary harm. Our men and women in uniform are owed a debt of

gratitude for their courageous efforts. A failure to bring about

democracy in Iraq rests solely on the shoulders of the President and

his Administration.

Mr. Speaker, a great American military cannot be a substitute for a

weak Iraqi government. Americans want a new direction in Iraq. The best

way to support our troops serving in Iraq is to bring them home.