Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call for the passage of

H.R. 4156, the ``Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Act.'' The

war in Iraq cannot be won through the use of military force or another

troop surge. The majority of the American people do not support the war

in Iraq; a recent study stated that nearly 7 in 10 Americans oppose the

war. Since the war began in 2003, 3,859 brave U.S. troops have died in

Iraq. In 2007 the death toll has already reached 860 soldiers who have

lost their lives, making it the worst year yet for the American

military in Iraq. Currently, 28,400 soldiers have been wounded in Iraq

since the war began with 12,750 suffering injuries so serious they were

prevented from returning to duty.

President Bush's failed Iraq policies offer a war with no end in

sight. There is no progress on political reconciliation between Shiites

and Sunnis in the Iraqi government. Just this week, it was reported

that the U.S. effort to organize nearly 70,000 local Sunni fighters to

solidify security gains in Iraq is facing severe political and

logistical challenges as the central government resists in

incorporating them into the Iraqi police and army. Last month, the

Shiite political alliance of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called the

U.S. military to halt the recruitments of Sunnis.

The bill in the house tonight will require the start of the

redeployment of U.S. forces within 30 days of enactment, with a goal

completion of redeployment by December 15, 2008. It will require a

transition in the mission of U.S. forces in Iraq from primarily combat

to force protection and diplomatic protection; limited support to Iraqi

security forces; and targeted counterterrorism operations. H.R. 4156

will prohibit deployment of U.S. troops to Iraq who are not fully

trained and fully equipped. The legislation also calls for an extension

to all U.S. Government agencies and personnel of the current

prohibitions in the Army Field Manual against torture. The bill will

also provide to meet the immediate need of our troops, but defers

consideration of the remainder of the President's nearly $200 billion

request. At the current rate of expenditure, the additional funds will

last 4 months.

Many insist that American troops cannot leave Iraq until we have

achieved victory; and democracy has been established. History has shown

us that civil wars and insurgencies are ended only through rigorous

diplomacy, economic development, and national reconciliation between

former enemies; not by a troop surge and an endless war. Diplomacy

works, and now more than ever is the time to implement the

recommendations of the Baker Hamilton Commission, and call for a

regional peace summit in the Middle East.

Let's bring all parties who are involved in the conflict to the peace

table, so they can begin to resolve their differences. If international

diplomacy ended the intractable conflicts in Northern Ireland, the

Balkans, the conflict between Israel and Egypt, and Rwanda; then

international diplomacy can work in Iraq. Once we begin the strategic

withdrawal of U.S. troops out of Iraq, and show the Iraqi people we do

not wish to occupy their country, then and only then can we begin the

real possibility of having an effective international peace conference.