Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Iraq

Redeployment Act which sets forth a realistic strategy for the

responsible redeployment of our combat troops in Iraq. The Bush

Administration has requested another $200 billion dollar blank check

for the war in Iraq to pursue a flawed strategy that has no end in

sight and which continually puts our brave men and women in the armed

services in the middle of Iraq's civil war.

The indefinite presence of American forces in Iraq has allowed the

different factions there to postpone making the difficult compromises

necessary to achieve stability and political reconciliation. Our

intelligence community has publicly concluded that the political

situation in Iraq is getting worse, not better. We cannot ask our

troops to remain in Iraq when the different Iraqi factions have refused

to take the steps necessary to achieve a greater stability.

We must embark on a new direction in Iraq. That's what this

legislation will do. It allocates $50 billion for the purpose of

beginning to responsibly redeploy our combat forces out of Iraq by the

target date of December 15, 2008. The troops that would remain in Iraq

beyond that date would focus on the more limited missions of training

Iraqi security forces, providing logistical and intelligence support

for the Iraqi security forces, and engaging in targeted counter-

terrorist operations against Al-Qaeda and affiliated groups.

As the legislation states, ``the primary purpose of funds made

available by the Act should be to transition the mission of the United

States Armed Forces in Iraq and undertake their redeployment, and not

to extend or prolong the war.'' This bill also states that the

reduction of our armed forces in Iraq ``shall be implemented in

conjunction with a comprehensive diplomatic, political and economic

strategy that includes sustained engagement with Iraq's neighbors and

the international community for the purpose of working collectively to

bring stability to Iraq''--a strategy recommended by the bipartisan

Iraq Study Group that the Administration has failed to pursue with any

vigor or urgency.

This legislation also prohibits the deployment of any troops not

fully equipped or trained, and extends to all U.S. Government agencies

and personnel the limitations in the U.S. Army Field Manual on

permissible interrogation techniques. We must send a strong message to

the world that we do not support or condone torture.

We are on the wrong path in Iraq. This bill provides a much needed

change in direction that will strengthen our national security, improve

our position in the region and bring our men and women safely home.