Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4156,

the Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act. This

bill will begin the long-overdue withdrawal of American troops from

Iraq.

Yesterday, the President vetoed the Labor and Heath and Human

Services-Education appropriations bill, which is the bill that provides

funding for the National Institutes of Health, the Center for Disease

Control, Low Income Home Energy Assistance, the Education Department,

Pell Grants, and educational programs for the disadvantaged. He vetoed

this bill because it contained a 2 percent increase over his request--

an increase of $10 billion in a Labor HHS bill of roughly $600 billion.

The President opposes even a 2 percent increase in the funding for

these programs.

Meanwhile, the President has requested almost $200 billion more for

his failed war in Iraq. That would make the total cost of the war in

Iraq so far to over $600 billion and climbing, with no end in sight.

President Bush's refusal to change course in Iraq is shocking, his

failure to allow adequate rest for our soldiers between tours of duty

is outrageous, and his demand for another $200 billion blank check for

his war in Iraq while vetoing LIHEAP for the poor, education for

disadvantaged children, Pell Grants for college students, and research

into cures for life threatening disease is simply unacceptable to this

House. What a misplaced set of priorities.

Instead of the blank check for an endless war, this bill requires

President Bush to begin withdrawing American troops from Iraq within 30

days. Instead of unfairly sending inadequately equipped soldiers on

multiple tours of duty, this bill prohibits the deployment of any

troops who are not fully equipped and trained. And at the same time,

this bill provides the necessary funds, in full, to our troops who are

still in harm's way.

Our Republican colleagues must make a choice: will they stand with

President Bush's attempt to throw more money and more young men and

women into the mess in Iraq, or will they join with Democrats seeking a

bipartisan agreement on redeploying American troops out of Iraq?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to specifically note a provision of this

bill, which I wrote, to bar any funds in this bill from being used for

the gruesome and indefensible practice of extraordinary rendition. I

would like to commend and thank Chairman Obey and Chairman Murtha for

again including this language, as they have in every defense

appropriations and supplemental appropriations bill this year. Through

the use of extraordinary rendition, as well as abusive interrogation

techniques and extrajudicial incarceration of so-called ``enemy

combatants,'' President Bush has largely forfeited the mantel of human

rights champion which the United States has carried for so long. We

must reclaim the international moral high-ground if we are to cure the

root causes of terrorism around the world, and we can start by banning

extraordinary rendition.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chairman Obey for this strong and responsible

bill, and urge all my colleagues to vote aye.