Madam Speaker, I would just like to say that there has

been a lot of talk about Democrats cutting and running and not helping

our troops. Well, I would like to clarify the record on my own behalf.

Just a month ago, I had an opportunity, with four other Members of

Congress, to visit Iraq, to visit our soldiers. I met with many, many

platoons and individuals representing my State of California. We are

there working hard. We need to support those troops.

Indeed, many of them said that they have been on their second and

third tours. They were exhausted. They wanted to come home and see

their families. One young man told me he hadn't even seen his child,

who had been born 18 months already. Several of them told me that they

did not have adequate equipment. And I said please explain that.

In addition, with the escalation going on right now, they are having

to share their equipment with the troops that are coming in. That is

shameful. That is what this administration has done to our troops.

Democrats are asking for a signature on the supplemental because we

care about those troops and we care about the benefits that they

deserve.