Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Bush proposed

that our Nation spend another $196 billion in Iraq next year. Today we

will spend $330 million fighting the war in Iraq. Imagine that. Every

day, $330 million in taxpayer dollars is going to Iraq.

Just imagine for one moment what we could do here in the United

States with that money instead. We could hire an additional 1,700

Border Patrol agents to work our borders for an entire year. We could

provide health care to 50,000 more veterans so they receive the

essential health care treatment that they need. We could enroll 46,000

more children in Head Start for 1 year, so they can receive early

childhood education. If we took 1 day of funding from the Iraq war, we

could help nearly 800,000 families keep their heat on this winter

through the LIHEAP program. We could provide 270,000 more children

health care coverage through the CHIP program.

Mr. Speaker, while President Bush has no problem sending billions of

dollars to Iraq, he is neglecting essential needs here in America. The

Democratic majority in this Congress refuses to follow that lead.