Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm always happy to join my

colleagues, the difference-makers, who heard the call of the American

people and came to Congress to really make the case for a safer

America, a stronger America; an America that is not mired down in the

quagmire which is Iraq; an America that says, look, we are ready to

defend American interest around the world, but that does not include

being mired down in a war we never should have been in in the first

place.

I'm proud to have voted for this safe redeployment act today, but I

just want to point out something that's so very important; and that is,

that while dollars and cents clearly are important in this debate, no

one can calculate the loss of a loved one. Since this surge began, 600

families have received the most devastating news that any family can

ever receive, 600 spouses, 600 sets of parents, 600 sets of children,

600 communities lost a loved one because of this surge that was wrong-

headed from the very beginning.

We can't calculate the costs of this war in dollars really. It must

be calculated in terms of the lives of our fellow Americans that have

gone forward in this horrible conflict. We have to calculate this war

in terms of the injuries and the casualties that have been faced, in

terms of the young people who have lost limbs, who have lost their

strong sense of mental health, their ability to discern reality, their

ability to have a calm frame of mind because, for so many of these

young people, the helicopter sounds don't stop even after they come

home. For so many young people, the explosions, a car backing up, any

sort of sound sends them back to that war zone they used to be in. And

it's a horrible tragedy, it's a human tragedy, and no amount of

calculation of dollars and cents will ever truly capture what we have

lost as a Nation.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we stand here, the difference-makers, today we

want to state to the American people that we are here to keep the faith

with the American people. We will never forget all of our fellow

Americans, our brothers and sisters who have gone forward in this

conflict, who have lost lives, who have lost limbs, who have lost their

health and their families, who have received an injury that is so

impossible to ever heal from. But we know the resilience and the

strength of the American people, and we know that they expect us to put

their best interests first forward always, and that means a safe,

responsible redeployment out of this conflict.

So, Mr. Speaker, just as I say that the losses in this war cannot

simply be calculated in dollars and cents but in terms of real human

lives, it is also true that they be calculated in dollars and cents as

well.

And before I yield back, Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out this

very important graph that I have right to my right, and this shows very

clearly the costs of this war. It wasn't the $8 billion that we thought

it was.

Now, we know it's 10 billion per month, but just look here. Per year

we're talking about a number with so many zeros behind it I think that

my young children will be very hard pressed to be able to pronounce

this number. This is a huge number. What is this, this number is about

120 T, trillion? Billion. I think I need an arithmetic lesson, and I'm

a fellow that's had a little bit of schooling.

But as I look at this big number, it will be a challenge for any

fifth grader, Mr. Speaker. It's a whopper of a number and it can't even

begin to calculate the true losses of our country in this war.

No doubt, Mr. Speaker. That's an excellent point. What

does it mean to care for a 20-year-old quadriplegic for the course of

his or her life?

This chart speaks for itself, but I just want to go to the bottom

line if I may, Mr. Speaker. We're looking at $3,816 per second.