Mr. Speaker, every day that we spend money in Iraq means

missed opportunities to invest in priorities here at home. While the

Bush administration spends $339 million a day in Iraq, we are diverting

money from our Nation's needs.

With that $339 million that we spend today, we could instead ensure

that 2.6 million Americans have access to medical and dental care at

community health centers. We can provide 955,000 families with help for

their energy bills, and we could hire 50,000 more cops to protect our

citizens on our streets.

With the funds we are spending in Iraq today we could also provide

937,000 grants for research into diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's and

diabetes, provide 317,000 kids with vaccinations and could send 18,000

more students to school.

The millions we are pumping into Iraq today is desperately needed

here at home as this country stares recession in the face. Yet

President Bush continues to recommend nothing but the status quo in

Iraq.

Put America first.