

the price that we will pay is chaos in Iraq and further exposure to terror here at home.

The majority leader of the Senate, HARRY REID talks about polling data from Senator SCHUMER that indicate “political” gains by their party on Iraq. It is unfortunate that the Democrat majority think of Iraq in terms of political points, not national security. If we do not resolve this issue with immediacy, the readiness of our troops will be compromised. They are struggling to determine how they will redistribute funds to pay for their operations while we are here politicking. We must stop the defeatist strategy of the majority now—the one by which they hope to gain political capital from to the detriment of our troops in the field.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 226, noes 195, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 264]

AYES—226

Abercrombie	Delahunt	Kennedy	Perlmutter	Scott (GA)	Tierney
Ackerman	DeLauro	Kildee	Peterson (MN)	Scott (VA)	Towns
Allen	Dicks	Kilpatrick	Pomeroj	Serrano	Udall (CO)
Altmine	Dingell	Kind	Price (NC)	Sestak	Udall (NM)
Andrews	Doggett	Klein (FL)	Rahall	Shea-Porter	Van Hollen
Arcuri	Donnelly	Langevin	Rangel	Sherman	Velázquez
Baca	Doyle	Lantos	Reyes	Shuler	Visclosky
Baird	Edwards	Larsen (WA)	Rothman	Skelton	Wasserman
Baldwin	Ellison	Larson (CT)	Royal-Allard	Slaughter	Schultz
Barrow	Ellsworth	Lee	Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)	Waters
Bean	Emanuel	Levin	Rush	Snyder	Watt
Becerra	Engel	Lewis (GA)	Ryan (OH)	Solis	Weiner
Berkley	Eshoo	Lipinski	Salazar	Space	Welch (VT)
Berman	Etheridge	Loebssack	Sánchez, Linda	Spratt	Wexler
Berry	Farr	Logren, Zoe	T.	Stark	Wilson (OH)
Bishop (GA)	Fattah	Lowey	Sanchez, Loretta	Sutton	Woolsey
Bishop (NY)	Filner	Lynch	Sarbanes	Tanner	Wu
Blumenauer	Frank (MA)	Mahoney (FL)	Schakowsky	Tauscher	Wynn
Boren	Giffords	Maloney (NY)	Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Yarmuth
Boswell	Gillibrand	Markey	Schwartz	Thompson (MS)	
Boucher	Gonzalez	Matheson			
Boyd (FL)	Gordon	Matsui			
Boysd (KS)	Green, Al	McCarthy (NY)			
Brady (PA)	Green, Gene	McCullom (MN)			
Braley (IA)	Grijalva	McDermott			
Brown, Corrine	Gutierrez	McGovern			
Butterfield	Hall (NY)	McIntyre			
Capps	Hare	McNerney			
Capuano	Harman	McNulty			
Cardoza	Hastings (FL)	Meehan			
Carnahan	Herseth Sandlin	Meek (FL)			
Carney	Higgins	Meeks (NY)			
Carson	Hill	Melancon			
Castor	Hinchey	Michaud			
Chandler	Hinojosa	Miller (NC)			
Clarke	Hirono	Miller, George			
Clay	Hodes	Mitchell			
Cleaver	Holden	Mollohan			
Clyburn	Holt	Moore (KS)			
Cohen	Honda	Moore (WI)			
Conyers	Hooley	Moran (VA)			
Cooper	Hoyer	Murphy (CT)			
Costa	Inslie	Murphy, Patrick			
Costello	Israel	Murtha			
Courtney	Jackson (IL)	Nadler			
Cramer	Jackson-Lee	Napolitano			
Crowley	(TX)	Neal (MA)			
Cuellar	Jefferson	Oberstar			
Cummings	Johnson (GA)	Obe			
Davis (AL)	Johnson, E. B.	Olver			
Davis (CA)	Jones (NC)	Ortiz			
Davis (IL)	Jones (OH)	Pallone			
Davis, Lincoln	Kagen	Pascarella			
DeFazio	Kanjorski	Pastor			
DeGette	Kaptur	Payne			

NOES—195

Aderholt	Gallegly	Myrick	
Akin	Garrett (NJ)	Neugebauer	
Alexander	Gerlach	Nunes	
Bachmann	Gillmor	Paul	
Bachus	Gingrey	Pearce	
Baker	Gohmert	Pence	
Barrett (SC)	Goodlatte	Peterson (PA)	
Bartlett (MD)	Granger	Petri	
Barton (TX)	Graves	Pickering	
Biggert	Hall (TX)	Pitts	
Bilbray	Haster	Platts	
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Poe	
Bishop (UT)	Hayes	Porter	
Blackburn	Heller	Price (GA)	
Boehner	Hensarling	Pryce (OH)	
Bonner	Herger	Putnam	
Bono	Hobson	Ramstad	
Boozman	Hoekstra	Regula	
Boustan	Hulshof	Rehberg	
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Reichert	
Brown (SC)	Inglis (SC)	Renzi	
Brown-Waite,	Ginny	Rogers (AL)	
	Jindal	Rogers (KY)	
	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (MI)	
	Burgess	Rohrabacher	
	Johnson, Sam	Ros-Lehtinen	
	Burton (IN)	Jordan	
	Buyer	Keller	
	Calvert	Roskam	
	King (IA)	Royce	
	Camp (MI)	Ryan (WI)	
	Campbell (CA)	Sali	
	Castile	Saxton	
	Chabot	Schmidt	
	Coble	Sensenbrenner	
	Cannon	Sessions	
	Cantor	Shadegg	
	Capito	Sessions	
	Calvert	Shays	
	Capito	Shimkus	
	Castile	Shuster	
	Chabot	Simpson	
	Cole (OK)	Souder	
	Cole (OK)	Taxman	
	Conaway	Tibeb	
	Crenshaw	Tucker	
	Dent	Upton	
	Diaz-Balart, L.	Walberg	
	Diaz-Balart, M.	Walden (OR)	
	Doolittle	Whitfield	
	Drake	Wicker	
	Dreier	Walsh (NY)	
	McCarthy (CA)	Wamp	
	Duncan	Weldon (FL)	
	McCaul (TX)	Weller	
	McCarthy	Wheeler	
	McCarthy	Whitfield	
	McCarthy	Wicker	
	McCarthy	Wolfe	
	McKeon	Young (AK)	
	Ferguson	Young (FL)	
	Flake	Young (SC)	
	Forbes	Young (NM)	
	Fortenberry	Young (SC)	
	Fossella	Young (NM)	
	Fox	Young (SC)	
	Franks (AZ)	Young (AK)	
	Franks (AZ)	Young (FL)	
	Frelinghuysen	Young (SC)	

NOT VOTING—11

Blunt	Goode	Watson
Cubin	Lampson	Waxman
Davis, Jo Ann	Radanovich	Westmoreland
Gilchrest	Reynolds	

□ 1937

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 332, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 1591) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 332, the conference report is considered as read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of April 24, 2007, at page H3823.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 1591.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 9 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this bill gives the President the exit strategy from the Iraqi civil war that up until now he has not had.

Next Tuesday will be the fourth anniversary of the President’s “Mission Accomplished” landing on that famous aircraft carrier. On that date, U.S. troops had won the war in Iraq, but since that time the administration’s mismanagement, their misjudgments, and their missed opportunities have entangled us in a quagmire that has become a prolonged civil war. That civil war has gutted our influence in the Middle East and much of the world. In the last 4 years, the administration has spent over half a trillion dollars. It has stretched the Army to the limit, brought our Guard and Reserve to the breaking point, and reduced our military to the lowest state of military readiness in modern history.

The President has refused to finance this war through the normal appropriations process. He has chosen to mask the true cost of the war by paying for it on the installment plan through a series of supplemental requests. He has

now requested another supplemental of almost another \$100 billion in military spending, and almost \$4 billion in other additional spending. The bill before us today is our response.

We provide \$4 billion more than the President asked for for troops in the field. The President is objecting on two grounds. First, he does not like the conditions we have placed on funding for the war. Second, he objects to the money we have added for other crucial activities. He calls it "pork." So do some of the charter members of the "Invent Your Own Facts Club" that seems to populate this institution.

We have provided \$4 billion more than he has asked for for operation and maintenance for personnel costs and for procurement.

We have provided \$750 million more than he asked for for Afghanistan.

We have provided \$2.2 billion more for military health to meet the medical needs of our returning soldiers. We have added \$1.8 billion for veterans health care above the amount the President asked for.

We have provided \$2.2 billion more for aviation security, port security, and border security.

We have provided \$80 million more for nuclear nonproliferation, and we have added \$150 million for the FBI.

We have provided \$650 million more than the President asked for for the pandemic flu emergency, cleaning up an action that last year's Congress never got around to completing.

We have provided \$3.3 billion more for Katrina, again cleaning up some more business that last year's Congress failed to complete.

We have also provided \$3.1 billion more for BRAC which the administration itself asked for in its budget last year.

We provided \$500 million for wild land fires, the same amount put into the same account by the Republican majority 2 years ago for the same purposes.

We have added \$400 million to low income heating assistance because the previous Congress cut that by \$1 billion. We should have added back the whole billion dollars, but in the interest of saving money we confined it to \$400 million.

We have added \$425 million to continue the rural school payments in the West that the last Congress never got

around to renewing. Unfortunately, they allowed that program to expire, as they allowed so many other things to expire last year.

We have also provided \$3.5 billion for agriculture disaster, again an issue which has been hanging around for more than a year. The President has declared more than 70 percent of the counties in this country to be agriculture disaster areas. There ought to be some action that flows from that unless we are taking the President's initial action to be meaningless.

We have also provided \$396 million in SCHIP to make certain that low income children and low income families don't fall off the State health care rolls. We have been asked to do that by bipartisan Governors from 14 States.

If the President wants to object to those items and call them pork, or of members of the flat earth club in this body want to call it pork, that's fine with me; I think the public will look at those issues somewhat differently.

The President is attacking these additional items as a smoke screen to obscure the fact that the key issue on this bill is whether or not there will be a change in direction with respect to our policy in Iraq.

□ 1945

This bill supports the troops. It begins to hold Iraq and the administration accountable, and it points the way to ending our involvement in a protracted civil war.

As a condition of providing the President with the funds he has asked for, we require that our American military units meet certain standards that are known as the Murtha standards. They simply require that any unit sent into battle be fully combat ready. They would require, as the Defense Department already has for the most part, they would require that any unit that has been in Iraq does not have to stay there for more than a year without relief, and they also require that if they are sent back, they get to spend at least a year at home before they go back. And in an era where no one is being asked to sacrifice except military families, it seems to me those are all minimum goals that we all ought to be willing to adhere to.

Because the President rejected these requirements, we have given him the right to waive these requirements, but only if he spells out to the country why

he has departed from them. That is imminently reasonable. He owes the country that explanation.

We require that Iraq meet certain performance benchmarks, benchmarks that were first laid out by the President himself, and we tie those benchmarks to a timeline. If those benchmarks are met, redeployment of U.S. troops must begin by July 1. If they are not met, they must begin by October. Those dates are firm. The goal for completing such redeployment is 6 months after it starts.

Now, the President objects to the fact that we are setting timelines, but the Secretary of Defense himself was quoted in the Washington Post as noting that these timelines, in fact, have helped give the Iraqis a message that we are not going to stay in Iraq forever. We stand by them. We believe these benchmarks and these timelines are necessary in order to give General Petraeus the ability to make clear to the Iraqis that we are not going to stay there forever, while they refuse to make the political compromises necessary to end the civil war.

Iraqis and the President must understand our troops won the war. They cannot achieve the political and diplomatic compromises that are needed to end the civil war, only the Iraqis can do that.

Four years after "mission accomplished" is long enough, Mr. Speaker. If the President were here I would simply say to him, "Mr. President, with this bill we have compromised on two fronts. We have responded to your objection to the Murtha principles by giving you the ability to waive them; all you have to do is explain why to the country." We have responded to his concerns about those timelines by adjusting them and making them somewhat more flexible in terms of their completion.

So I would say to the President if he were here, "Mr. President, it is your turn; we need a new direction and we need it now. Please do not say, as you said last week" I will talk but I will not compromise. "Mr. President, after 4 years, you need to change the direction. You need to sign this bill."

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following tabular material reflecting the funding levels in the conference report.

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2007 (H.R. 1591)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007				
TITLE I - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR				
CHAPTER 1				
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
Foreign Agricultural Service				
Public Law 480 Title II Grants (emergency).....	350,000	450,000	475,000	460,000
General Provisions				
Sec. 1101. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (emergency).....	---	---	82,000	40,000
Total, Chapter 1.....	350,000	450,000	557,000	500,000
CHAPTER 2				
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE				
General Administration				
Office of the Inspector General (emergency).....	---	---	500	---
General Legal Activities				
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	4,093	1,648	4,093	1,648
United States Attorneys				
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	5,000	5,000	12,500	5,000
United States Marshals Service				
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	14,921	2,750	32,500	6,450
National Security Division				
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	1,736	1,736	1,736	1,736
Federal Bureau Of Investigation				
Salaries and Expenses (emergency).....	118,260	118,260	348,260	268,000
Drug Enforcement Administration				
Salaries and Expenses (emergency).....	8,468	8,468	25,100	12,166
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives				
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Federal Prison System				
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Total, Chapter 2.....	173,478	158,862	445,689	316,000
CHAPTER 3				
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - MILITARY				
Military Personnel				
Military Personnel, Army (emergency).....	8,510,270	8,878,899	8,870,270	8,853,350
Military Personnel, Navy (emergency).....	692,127	1,100,410	1,100,410	1,100,410
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency).....	1,386,871	1,495,828	1,495,827	1,495,827
Military Personnel, Air Force (emergency).....	1,101,287	1,229,334	1,218,587	1,218,587
Reserve Personnel, Army (emergency).....	147,244	173,244	147,244	147,244
Reserve Personnel, Navy (emergency).....	72,800	82,800	77,523	86,023
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (emergency).....	---	15,000	---	5,660
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (emergency).....	3,000	14,100	9,073	11,573
National Guard Personnel, Army (emergency).....	436,025	552,725	474,978	545,286
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (emergency).....	---	24,600	41,533	44,033
Subtotal.....	12,349,624	13,566,940	13,435,445	13,507,993

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2007 (H.R. 1591)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
Operation and Maintenance				
Operation and Maintenance, Army (emergency).....	20,423,379	20,897,672	20,373,379	20,373,379
Operation and Maintenance, Navy (emergency)..... (Transfer to Coast Guard) (emergency).....	5,040,482 (-120,293)	5,115,397 (-120,293)	4,865,003 (-120,293)	4,676,670 (-120,293)
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps (emergency).....	1,401,594	1,503,694	1,101,594	1,146,594
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force (emergency).....	7,035,881	6,909,259	6,685,881	6,650,881
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (emergency).....	3,279,307	2,855,993	2,790,669	2,714,487
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve (emergency).....	74,049	74,049	74,049	74,049
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve (emergency).....	111,066	111,066	111,066	111,066
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (emergency).....	13,591	13,591	13,591	13,591
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (emergency).....	10,160	10,160	10,160	10,160
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard (emergency).....	83,569	133,569	83,569	83,569
Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard (emergency).....	38,429	38,429	38,429	38,429
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (emergency).....	5,906,400	5,906,400	5,906,400	5,906,400
Iraq Security Forces Fund (emergency).....	3,842,300	3,842,300	3,842,300	3,842,300
Iraq Freedom Fund (emergency).....	565,600	155,600	455,600	355,600
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund (emergency).....	2,432,800	2,432,800	2,432,800	2,432,800
Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund (emergency).....	---	2,500,000	---	2,000,000
Subtotal	50,258,607	52,499,979	48,784,490	50,429,975
Procurement				
Aircraft Procurement, Army (emergency).....	627,750	461,850	619,750	619,750
Missile Procurement, Army (emergency).....	160,173	160,173	111,473	111,473
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (emergency).....	3,502,315	3,474,389	3,400,315	3,404,315
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (emergency).....	681,500	681,500	681,500	681,500
Other Procurement, Army (emergency).....	10,946,687	10,197,399	10,589,272	11,076,137
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (emergency).....	730,713	995,797	963,903	1,090,287
Weapons Procurement, Navy (emergency).....	171,813	171,813	163,813	163,813
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency).....	159,833	159,833	159,833	159,833
Other Procurement, Navy (emergency).....	745,425	937,407	722,506	748,749
Procurement, Marine Corps (emergency).....	2,055,715	1,885,383	1,703,389	2,252,749
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (emergency).....	1,726,336	2,474,916	1,431,756	2,106,468
Missile Procurement, Air Force (emergency).....	140,300	140,300	78,900	94,900
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (emergency).....	95,800	95,800	6,000	6,000
Other Procurement, Air Force (emergency).....	2,092,754	2,042,183	1,972,131	2,096,200
Procurement, Defense-Wide (emergency).....	979,380	934,930	903,092	980,050
National Guard and Reserve Equipment (emergency).....	---	---	1,000,000	---
Subtotal	24,816,494	24,813,673	24,507,633	25,592,224
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation				
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army (emergency).....	115,976	60,781	125,576	100,006
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy (emergency).....	460,175	295,737	308,212	298,722
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force (emergency).....	220,721	132,928	233,869	187,176
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-wide (emergency).....	650,864	545,904	522,804	512,804
Subtotal	1,447,736	1,035,350	1,190,461	1,098,708
Revolving And Management Funds				
Defense Working Capital Funds (emergency).....	1,315,526	1,315,526	1,315,526	1,315,526
National Defense Sealift Fund (emergency).....	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Subtotal	1,320,526	1,320,526	1,320,526	1,320,526
Other Department of Defense Programs				
Defense Health Program (emergency).....	1,123,147	2,789,703	2,466,847	3,251,853
Operation and maintenance (emergency).....	(1,073,147)	(2,289,703)	(2,277,147)	(2,802,153)
Procurement (emergency).....	---	---	(118,000)	(118,000)
Research, development, test and evaluation (emergency).....	---	(500,000)	(71,700)	(331,700)
Medical support fund (emergency).....	(50,000)	---	---	---
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (emergency).....	259,115	259,115	254,665	254,665
Subtotal	1,382,262	3,048,818	2,721,512	3,506,518

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2007 (H.R. 1591)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
Related Agencies				
Intelligence Community Management Account (emergency).	66,726	57,426	71,726	71,726
General Provisions				
Sec. 1302. New transfer authority (emergency).....	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)
Sec. xxxx. Additional transfer authority (emergency)...	(3,500,000)	---	---	---
Sec. 1305. Defense Cooperative Account transfer authority (emergency).....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Sec. xxxx. Procurement, Marine Corps MRAP (emergency).	---	---	1,500,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Contractor efficiency savings (emergency)...	---	-815,000	---	---
Sec. xxxx. Army IG disability claims recommendations...	---	1,000	---	---
Sec. 1322. Military Construction, Army (by transfer) (emergency).....	---	---	---	(-6,250)
Sec. 1323. Economic Support Fund (Department of State) (by transfer) (emergency).....	(-110,000)	(-100,000)	---	(-110,000)
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Total, Chapter 3.....	91,642,975	95,529,712	93,532,793	95,528,670
CHAPTER 4				
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY				
Atomic Energy Defense Activities				
National Nuclear Security Administration				
Defense nuclear nonproliferation (emergency).....	63,000	150,000	63,000	150,000
CHAPTER 5				
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY				
Analysis and operations (emergency).....				
United States Customs and Border Protection	---	35,000	---	15,000
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	---	100,000	140,000	115,000
(Transfer to Federal Law Enforcement Training Center) (emergency).....	---	(-1,000)	---	(-5,000)
Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance, and Procurement (emergency).....	---	150,000	75,000	120,000
Subtotal.....	---	250,000	215,000	235,000
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement				
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	---	---	20,000	10,000
Transportation Security Administration				
Aviation security (emergency).....	---	1,250,000	660,000	970,000
Federal Air Marshals (emergency).....	---	---	15,000	8,000
Subtotal.....	---	1,250,000	675,000	978,000
United States Coast Guard				
Operating expenses (Transfer from Defense, O&M, Navy) (emergency)....				
(120,293)	(120,293)	(120,293)	(120,293)	(120,293)
National Protection and Programs				
Infrastructure protection and information security (emergency).....				
---	25,000	18,000	37,000	37,000
Office of Health Affairs (emergency).....	---	---	18,000	15,000
Federal Emergency Management Agency				
Management and Administration (emergency).....	---	---	20,000	25,000
Salaries and expenses (emergency).....	---	25,000	---	---
State and local programs (emergency).....	---	415,000	855,000	552,500
Emergency management performance grants (emergency)...	---	100,000	100,000	100,000
Subtotal.....	---	540,000	975,000	677,500
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (emergency).....				
---	---	25,000	10,000	10,000

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2007 (H.R. 1591)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center				
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center - (Transfer from Customs and Border Protection) (emergency)....	---	(1,000)	---	(5,000)
Science and Technology				
Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations (emergency)....	---	---	15,000	10,000
Domestic Nuclear Detection Office				
Research, development and operations (emergency)....	---	---	39,000	39,000
Systems Acquisition (emergency)....	---	400,000	---	223,500
Subtotal....	---	400,000	39,000	262,500
Total, Chapter 5.....				
Total, Chapter 5.....	---	2,500,000	2,000,000	2,250,000
CHAPTER 6				
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH				
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES				
Salaries and Expenses				
Allowances and expenses (emergency)....	---	6,437	---	6,437
Government Accountability Office				
Salaries and expenses (emergency)....	---	---	374	374
Total, Chapter 6.....	---	6,437	374	6,811
CHAPTER 7				
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - MILITARY				
Military construction, Army (emergency)....	1,289,290	1,329,240	1,261,390	1,255,890
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps (emergency)....	390,500	389,300	347,890	370,990
Military construction, Air Force (emergency)....	60,200	60,200	34,700	43,300
Military construction, Air Force Reserve (emergency) (Rescission)....	---	---	3,096	---
Department of Defense base closure account 2005 (emergency)....	---	---	-3,096	---
Total, Chapter 7.....	1,739,990	4,915,542	4,780,782	4,806,982
CHAPTER 8				
DEPARTMENT OF STATE				
Administration of Foreign Affairs				
Diplomatic and Consular Programs (emergency) (Transfer out)(emergency)....	912,996	966,954	815,796	870,658
Office of Inspector General (emergency)	35,000	46,800	36,500	36,500
Education and Cultural Exchange Programs (emergency) ..	20,000	20,000	25,000	20,000
Rescission of emergency funding (emergency)....	---	---	-15,000	---
Emergencies in Diplomatic and Consular Service (By transfer)(emergency)....	---	---	(20,000)	(20,000)
Subtotal....	967,996	1,033,754	862,296	927,158
International Organizations				
Contributions for International Organizations (emergency)....	---	---	59,000	50,000
Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities (emergency)....	200,000	288,000	200,000	288,000
(By transfer) (emergency)....	---	---	(128,000)	---
Subtotal....	200,000	288,000	259,000	338,000

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
RELATED AGENCY				
Broadcasting Board of Governors				
International Broadcasting Operations (emergency)....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE				
Funds Appropriated to the President				
United States Agency for International Development				
Child survival and disease programs (emergency)....	161,000	161,000	161,000	161,000
International disaster and famine assistance (emerg.)....	105,000	135,000	187,000	165,000
Operating expenses of USAID (emergency)....	5,700	10,700	5,700	8,700
Operating expenses of USAID, Office of the Inspector General (emergency)....	---	3,500	4,000	3,500
Subtotal	271,700	310,200	357,700	338,200
Other Bilateral and Economic Assistance				
Economic Support Fund (emergency)....	3,025,000	2,953,000	2,602,200	2,649,300
(Transfer from Department of Defense) (emergency)....	(110,000)	(100,000)	---	(110,000)
Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States (emergency)....	279,000	239,000	214,000	229,000
Subtotal	3,304,000	3,192,000	2,816,200	2,878,300
Department of State				
Democracy fund (emergency)....	---	---	465,000	260,000
International narcotics control and law enforcement (emergency)....	260,000	334,500	210,000	257,000
(Rescission of emergency funding)....	---	---	-13,000	-13,000
Migration and refugee assistance (emergency)....	71,500	111,500	143,000	130,500
United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance fund (emergency)....	30,000	35,000	55,000	55,000
Nonproliferation, Antiterrorism, Demining and Related programs (emergency)....	27,500	87,500	27,500	57,500
Subtotal	389,000	568,500	887,500	747,000
Department of the Treasury				
International affairs technical assistance (emergency)	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750
MILITARY ASSISTANCE				
Funds Appropriated to the President				
Foreign Military Financing Program (emergency)....	220,000	260,000	220,000	265,000
Peacekeeping operations (emergency)....	278,000	225,000	323,000	230,000
(Transfer out)(emergency)....	---	---	(-128,000)	---
Subtotal	498,000	485,000	543,000	495,000
Total, Chapter 8	5,643,446	5,890,204	5,738,446	5,736,408
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY				
Departmental Offices				
Salaries and expenses (emergency)....	2,538	---	---	---
Total, Title I	99,615,427	109,600,757	107,118,084	109,294,871
Appropriations.....	---	(1,000)	---	---
Emergency appropriations.....	(99,615,427)	(109,599,757)	(107,149,180)	(109,307,871)
Rescission.....	---	---	(-3,096)	---
Rescission of emergency funding.....	---	---	(-28,000)	(-13,000)
by transfer (emergency).....	(230,293)	(221,293)	(268,293)	(255,293)
transfer out (emergency).....	(-230,293)	(-221,293)	(-268,293)	(-255,293)

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
TITLE II - ADDITIONAL HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY				
CHAPTER 1				
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
General Provisions				
Sec. 2101 Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve program (emergency).....	---	---	115,000	115,000
Sec. xxxx. Livestock assistance (emergency).....	---	25,000	---	---
Sec. xxxx. Irrigated crops (emergency).....	---	15,000	---	---
Sec. xxxx. Citrus (emergency).....	---	100,000	---	---
Total, Chapter 1.....				
	---	140,000	115,000	115,000
CHAPTER 2				
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE				
Office of Justice Programs				
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance (emergency) (Hurricane recovery).....	---	---	170,000	50,000
(Presidential conventions).....	---	---	(70,000)	(50,000)
	---	---	(100,000)	---
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE				
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration				
Operations research, and facilities (emergency).....	---	120,000	165,900	110,000
Procurement, acquisition, and construction (emergency).....	---	---	6,000	---
Fisheries Disaster Mitigation fund (emergency).....	---	---	50,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	120,000	221,900	110,000
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION				
Exploration capabilities (emergency).....	---	35,000	---	35,000
Total, Chapter 2.....	---	155,000	391,900	195,000
CHAPTER 3				
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL				
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY				
Corps of Engineers - Civil				
Construction (emergency).....	---	37,080	150,000	25,300
(Transfer to Flood control and costal emergencies) (emergency).....	(-270,000)	---	---	---
Flood control and coastal emergencies (emergency).....	---	1,300,000	1,407,700	1,407,700
(Transfer from Construction) (emergency).....	(270,000)	---	---	---
Total, Chapter 3.....	---	1,337,080	1,557,700	1,433,000
CHAPTER 4				
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION				
Disaster loan program account:				
Administrative expenses (emergency).....	---	25,069	25,069	---
Administrative expenses (unobligated balances (emergency).....	---	---	---	(25,069)
Economic injury disaster loans (unobligated balances) (emergency).....	---	---	---	(25,000)
General Provisions				
Sec. 2401. Economic injury disaster loan (emergency)	---	---	25,000	---
Total, Chapter 4.....	---	25,069	50,069	---

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
CHAPTER 5				
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY				
Office of the Inspector General (Transfer from Disaster Relief) (emergency).....	---	(4,000)	---	(4,000)
Federal Emergency Management Agency				
Disaster Relief (emergency).....	3,400,000	4,310,000	4,310,000	4,610,000
(Transfer to OIG) (emergency).....	---	(-4,000)	---	(-4,000)
General Provisions				
Sec. 2502. Community Disaster Loan Act (emergency).....	---	320,000	320,000	320,000
Total, Chapter 5.....				
	3,400,000	4,630,000	4,630,000	4,930,000
CHAPTER 6				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR				
National Park Service				
Historic Preservation Fund (emergency).....	---	---	15,000	10,000
General Provisions				
Sec. 2601.				
National recreation and preservation fund (by transfer) (emergency).....	---	---	---	(500)
Historic Preservation Fund (transfer) (emergency).....	---	---	---	(-500)
CHAPTER 7				
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
Higher education (emergency).....	---	30,000	30,000	30,000
Hurricane education recovery (emergency).....	---	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total, Chapter 7.....				
	---	60,000	60,000	60,000
CHAPTER 8				
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION				
Federal Highway Administration				
Federal-aid Highways				
Emergency relief programs (emergency).....	---	---	388,903	682,942
Federal-aid highways (rescission of contract authority).....	---	---	-388,903	-682,942
Federal Transit Administration				
Formula grants (emergency).....	---	---	75,000	35,000
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT				
Public and Indian Housing				
Tenant-based rental assistance:				
Disaster voucher program (emergency).....	---	80,000	---	---
Unobligated balances (rescission) (emergency).....	---	-80,000	---	---
Office of Inspector General (emergency).....	---	10,240	5,000	7,000
Total, Chapter 8.....				
	---	10,240	80,000	42,000
Total, Title II.....				
Emergency appropriations.....	3,400,000	6,357,389	6,899,669	6,785,000
Rescission of emergency funding.....	(3,400,000)	(6,437,389)	(7,288,572)	(7,467,942)
Rescission of contract authority.....	---	(-80,000)	---	---
by transfer (emergency).....	(270,000)	(4,000)	---	(4,500)
transfer out (emergency).....	(-270,000)	(-4,000)	---	(-4,500)

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
TITLE III - OTHER EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS				
CHAPTER 1				
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE				
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration				
Operations research, and facilities (emergency).....	---	60,400	---	60,400
CHAPTER 2				
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL				
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY				
Corps of Engineers - Civil				
Operation and maintenance (emergency).....	---	---	3,000	3,000
Flood control and coastal emergencies (emergency)....	---	---	150,000	150,000
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR				
Bureau of Reclamation				
Water and related resources (emergency).....	---	---	18,000	18,000
Total, Chapter 2.....				
	---	---	171,000	171,000
CHAPTER 3				
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR				
Bureau of Land Management				
Wildland fire management (emergency).....	---	100,000	100,000	100,000
United States Fish and Wildlife Service				
Resource management (emergency).....	---	7,398	7,398	7,398
National Park Service				
Operation of the National Park System (emergency)....	---	525	525	525
U.S. Geological Survey				
Surveys, investigations, and research (emergency)....	---	5,270	5,270	5,270
Subtotal.....				
	---	113,193	113,193	113,193
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
Forest Service				
National Forest System (emergency).....	---	---	12,000	12,000
Wildland fire management (emergency).....	---	400,000	400,000	400,000
General Provisions				
Sec. 3301. Secure Rural Schools (emergency).....	---	400,000	---	425,000
Subtotal.....				
	---	800,000	412,000	837,000
Total, Chapter 3.....				
	---	913,193	525,193	950,193
CHAPTER 4				
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention				
Disease control research and training (emergency)....	---	---	13,000	13,000
CDC Occupational Safety and Health 9/11 (emergency)...	---	---	3,589	50,000
Subtotal.....				
	---	16,589	63,000	

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
Administration for Children and Families				
Low-income home energy assistance (emergency).....	---	400,000	640,000	400,000
Office of the Secretary				
Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (emergency).....	---	969,650	820,000	625,000
Covered Countermeasure Process Fund (emergency).....	---	50,000	50,000	25,000
Subtotal	---	1,019,650	870,000	650,000
General Provisions				
Sec. 3401. DOL Training and employment services (rescission) (emergency).....	---	---	-3,589	-4,494
Sec. 3401. DOL State unemployment insurance and employment service ops (rescission) (emergency).....	---	---	---	-4,100
Sec. 3402. DOEd Safe and drug free school zone (national programs) (emergency).....	---	---	---	8,594
Subtotal	---	---	-3,589	---
Total, Chapter 4				
CHAPTER 5				
Architect of the Capitol				
Capitol power plant (emergency).....	---	50,000	25,000	50,000
CHAPTER 6				
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS				
Veterans Benefits Administration				
Compensation and pensions.....	---	20,000	---	---
Veterans Health Administration				
Medical services (emergency).....	---	414,982	454,131	466,778
Medical administration (emergency).....	---	256,300	250,000	250,000
Medical facilities (emergency).....	---	595,000	595,000	595,000
Medical and prosthetic research (emergency).....	---	35,000	30,000	32,500
Subtotal	---	1,301,282	1,329,131	1,344,278
Departmental Administration				
General operating expenses (emergency).....	---	62,000	46,000	83,200
Information technology systems (emergency).....	---	35,000	36,100	35,100
Construction, major projects (emergency).....	---	23,800	---	---
Construction, minor projects (emergency).....	---	260,000	355,907	326,000
Subtotal	---	380,800	438,007	444,300
Total, Chapter 6	---	1,702,082	1,767,138	1,788,578
Total, Title III				
Appropriations.....	---	(20,000)	---	---
Emergency appropriations.....	---	(4,125,325)	(4,014,920)	(4,141,765)
Rescission of emergency funding.....	---	---	(-3,589)	(-8,594)
TITLE IV - OTHER MATTERS				
CHAPTER 1				
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
Farm Service Agency				
Salaries and expenses.....	---	48,000	75,000	37,500

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
General Provisions				
Sec. xxxx. Trade Adjustment Assistance (rescission)...	---	---	-75,000	---
Total, Chapter 1.....	---	48,000	---	37,500
CHAPTER 2				
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY				
Sec. 4401. US Coast Guard retired pay (mandatory)....	---	---	100,000	30,000
Sec. 4404 Rescission of unobligated balances:				
Office of the Secretary and Executive Management..	---	---	---	-1,201
Office of the Under Secretary for Management.....	---	---	---	-513
Office of Chief Information Officer.....	---	---	---	-462
Office of the Chief Financial Officer.....	---	---	---	-45
Preparedness - Management and Administration.....	---	---	---	-968
Science and Technology - Management and Administration.....	---	---	---	-1,215
United States Secret Service - Salaries and Expenses.....	---	---	---	-450
FEMA - Administrative and Regional Operations.....	---	---	---	-450
United States Coast Guard - Operating expenses....	---	---	---	-25,596
Various accounts.....	---	-20,000	---	---
Total, Rescission of unobligated balances	---	-20,000	---	-30,900
Sec. 4404. US Coast Guard Acquisition, construction and improvements.....	---	---	---	30,000
Sec. 4404. Office of the Undersecretary for Management.....	---	---	---	900
Total, Chapter 2.....	---	-20,000	100,000	30,000
CHAPTER 3				
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
Indian Health Service				
Sec. 4502.				
Indian health services (Transfer to Indian health facilities).....	---	(-7,300)	(-7,300)	(-7,300)
Indian health facilities (Transfer from Indian health services).....	---	(7,300)	(7,300)	(7,300)
CHAPTER 4				
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
National Institutes of Health				
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (Transfer to Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund).....	---	(-49,500)	(-49,500)	(-49,500)
Office of the Director (Transfer to Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund).....	---	---	---	(-49,500)
Subtotal.....	---	(-49,500)	(-49,500)	(-99,000)
Office of the Secretary				
Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (Transfer from National Institutes of Health).....	---	(49,500)	(49,500)	(99,000)
RELATED AGENCY				
National Council on Disability.....	---	---	---	300

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
General Provisions				
Sec. 4601. Employee Benefits Security Administration (Transfer from Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp).....	---	(7,000)	(7,000)	(7,000)
Sec. 4601. Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp (transfer)...	---	(-7,000)	(-7,000)	(-7,000)
Sec. 4604. HHS Office of the Secretary (rescission)...	---	---	-1,000	-1,000
Sec. 4607. CNCS: Operating expenses (transfer out)...	---	---	(-1,360)	(-1,360)
Sec. 4607. CNCS: Salaries and expenses (by transfer)...	---	---	(1,360)	(1,360)
Sec. xxxx. Special Education.....	---	---	1,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Student aid administration (rescission)...	---	---	-2,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	-2,000	-1,000
Total, Chapter 4.....	---	---	-2,000	-700
CHAPTER 5				
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH				
House of Representatives				
Payment to widows and heirs of deceased Members of Congress.....	---	165	---	165
Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office				
Sec. xxxx. Capitol Guide Service.....	---	---	3,500	---
(Rescission).....	---	---	-3,500	---
Total, Chapter 5.....	---	165	---	165
CHAPTER 6				
DEPARTMENT OF STATE				
International Commissions				
International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, construction.....	---	10,000	---	---
CHAPTER 7				
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT				
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight				
Salaries and expenses.....	---	7,568	4,800	6,150
Offsetting collections.....	---	-7,568	-4,800	-6,150
GENERAL PROVISIONS				
THE JUDICIARY				
Sec. xxxx. Judicial COLA (CBO).....	---	---	5,000	---
Total, Title IV.....	---	38,165	103,000	66,965
Appropriations.....	---	(65,733)	(189,300)	(104,565)
Rescissions.....	---	(-20,000)	(-81,500)	(-31,450)
Offsetting collections.....	---	(-7,568)	(-4,800)	(-6,150)
by transfer	---	(63,800)	(65,160)	(114,660)
transfer out.....	---	(-63,800)	(-65,160)	(-114,660)
TITLE V - AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE				
Sec. 5101. Crop disaster assistance (emergency).....	---	1,808,000	2,090,000	1,850,000
Sec. 5102a. Livestock compensation program (emergency)	---	1,480,000	1,507,000	1,380,000
Sec. 5102b. Livestock indemnity payments (emergency)...	---	31,000	33,000	33,000
Sec. 5103. Emergency conservation program (emergency)...	---	20,000	35,000	20,000
Sec. 5106. National Dairy Market Loss Payment Program (emergency).....	---	283,000	31,000	31,000
Sec. 5107. Dairy assistance (emergency).....	---	---	95,000	20,000
Sec. 5109. Low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers (emergency).....	---	---	---	21,000
Sec. 5110. Conservation security program (emergency)...	---	---	115,000	115,000
Sec. 5111. Farm Service Agency, salaries and expenses (emergency).....	---	---	30,000	30,000
Sec. xxxx. Ewe Lamb replacement (emergency).....	---	---	13,000	---

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
Sec. xxxx. Flooded crop and grazing land (emergency)..	---	---	6,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Sugar beet and sugar cane disaster assistance (emergency).....	---	---	27,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Spinach (emergency).....	---	25,000	---	---
Sec. xxxx. Small business economic loss grant program (emergency).....	---	---	100,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Tree assistance program (emergency).....	---	---	40,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Emergency watershed protection program (emergency).....	---	---	50,000	---
Sec. xxxx. Peanut storage (emergency).....	---	74,000	---	---
Sec. xxxx. Aquaculture (emergency).....	---	5,000	---	---
Sec. xxxx. Insect infestations (emergency).....	---	---	20,000	---
Total, Title V.....	---	3,726,000	4,192,000	3,500,000
=====				
TITLE VI - ELIMINATION OF SCHIP SHORTFALL AND OTHER MATTERS				
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services				
State Childrens Health Insurance Program (emergency) ..	---	735,000	448,000	646,000
Medicaid impact of SCHIP funding (emergency).....	---	-287,000	---	-250,000
Sec. 6002. HHS/CMS (Medicaid regulation offsets).....	---	---	---	-3,000
Total, Title VI.....	---	448,000	448,000	393,000
Appropriations.....	---	---	---	(-3,000)
Emergency Appropriations.....	---	(448,000)	(448,000)	(396,000)
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
TITLE VII - MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE AND SMALL BUSINESS TAX RELIEF				
Fair Minimum Wage and Tax Relief (emergency).....	---	---	35,000	---
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Grand total.....	103,015,427	124,315,636	122,807,084	124,173,007
Appropriations.....	---	(86,733)	(195,300)	(101,565)
Emergency appropriations.....	(103,015,427)	(124,336,471)	(123,121,872)	(124,813,578)
Rescissions.....	---	(-20,000)	(-84,596)	(-31,450)
Rescission of emergency funding.....	---	(-80,000)	(-31,589)	(-21,594)
Rescission of contract authority.....	---	---	(-388,903)	(-682,942)
Offsetting collections.....	---	(-7,568)	(-4,800)	(-6,150)
By transfer.....	---	(63,800)	(65,160)	(114,660)
By transfer (emergency).....	(500,293)	(225,293)	(268,293)	(259,793)
Transfer out.....	---	(-63,800)	(-65,160)	(-114,660)
Transfer out (emergency).....	(-500,293)	(-225,293)	(-268,293)	(-259,793)
Transfer authority (emergency).....	(7,000,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

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	FY 2007 Request	House	Senate	Conference
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CONGRESSIONAL RECAP				
Scorekeeping adjustments:				
Department of Defense transfer to Economic Support Fund (Department of State):				
Defense function.....	-110,000	-100,000	---	-110,000
International Affairs Function.....	110,000	100,000	---	110,000
Total Scorekeeping adjustments.....	---	---	---	---
Total (including adjustments).....	103,015,427	124,315,636	122,807,084	124,173,007

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the Republican leader of the House.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, what are we doing? What in the world are we doing? The President asked for funding for our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq to meet our commitments to bring freedom to those people and to protect the American people, and here we are with a bill that has some \$25 billion worth of spending over and above what the President asked for. And if that is not bad enough, we handcuff our generals and we handcuff our troops and we go about this backhanded way of trying to end the war in a backhanded way because the votes are not there to do it in a straight-up fashion.

Mr. Speaker, we are sent here by the American people. We have grave responsibilities to them and to our allies around the world, and I understand that there are deeply held differences over what is going on in Iraq. But all of us understand what we heard today from General Petraeus. All of us understand what we have heard over the last few months coming out of Iraq.

The real battle in Iraq today is not with the Iraqis. The real battle in Iraq today is with al Qaeda that has made this the central front in their war with us. And let us remember, we did not start the war with al Qaeda; they did.

It is al Qaeda that has made Iraq the central front in their war with us, and if we are not willing to take on al Qaeda in Iraq today, when will we? When will we stand up to radical Islam that is spreading all over the world, endangering our allies and endangering our citizens? When will we stand up and fight? We did not do it like other world leaders for some 20 years because America, like the rest of the world, looked up, looked away, and just hoped the problem would go away. It is not just going to go away.

People who are raised to believe that killing Americans and our allies and killing freedom and hating freedom is the answer to get to Allah is not just going to go away. And so we can look up and we can walk out, we can walk out of Iraq, just like we did in Lebanon, just like we did in Vietnam, just like we did in Somalia, and we will leave chaos in our wake.

Now, if dealing with al Qaeda is not enough of a reason to finish the job that we have in Iraq, what about the issue of the Iranians? The Iranians are trying to spew their hate all over the Middle East and elsewhere. You see Iranians who are bringing new devices into Baghdad to kill Americans and our allies. It is Iranians who are bringing funds and doing training to stir up sectarian violence in Baghdad. Are we just going to look the other way again?

I say to my colleagues, and I have said this before, every generation of Americans has had their obligation. Every generation of Americans has had

their obligation to stand up and to protect our country, not for just today but for tomorrow and for the next generation.

After looking away for 20 years during the 1980s and 1990s, what was America to do after 3,000 of our citizens died on 9/11? Just all hope it goes away, hope they do not care anymore?

I say to my colleagues that we have a solemn obligation to the American people to finish the job that we started. And while Iraq may not have started out as the central front in our war with al Qaeda, it may not have started out with a fight against the Iranians, all of us in this Chamber today know, all of us know that this is the central front in our war with al Qaeda, and this is the battleground with Iran. You all know it. You know it as well as I do.

And the question is, are we going to stand up and fulfill our obligation to the American people? Are we going to fulfill our obligation to the Iraqis who are struggling to create a government of the people, by the people and for the people?

I think they are on clear notice that they have got a job to do on their own, but if we step out today, we are ensuring that they will fail. We are ensuring that we will leave chaos in our wake. We will embolden our enemies, and it is our kids and their kids who will pay a very, very steep price.

This is not the right thing to do, in my opinion. I respect those who have opinions that are otherwise, but as I stand here as a Member of Congress, we need to think seriously about what we are doing, think seriously about the message that we are sending to our enemies around the world and ask ourselves, is this what our forefathers would have done? Is this the message that we want to send to the world? I would suggest to all of you it is not. We should vote “no.”

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. I thank the gentleman for yielding and commend him for his exceptional leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I also acknowledge the leadership of Mr. MURTHA and Mr. SKELTON for all that they are doing to make our country safer and to support our troops.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq is the greatest ethical challenge facing our Nation. This is so because our troops are being sent into battle without the training, equipment. And the strategic plan for success because the administration is not honoring our commitment to our veterans and because the Iraqi war has strained our military, and therefore weakened our ability to fight the war on terrorism.

By placing an unacceptable strain on our military, this war is undermining our ability to protect the American people. Instead of making the American people safer, the war in Iraq has weakened our ability to protect our

Nation from the threat posed by international terrorism, I repeat.

As Major General Petraeus said, right now we are not prepared. We are not prepared for the threat this Nation faces here at home. And, because in this business you cannot be half ready or half prepared, you are either ready or you are not.

We have put our citizens at greater risk. We have put their lives at greater risk, their property, our economy, our way of life, and that is just unacceptable.

Instead of strengthening our hand, the President's policies in Iraq have weakened our reputation in the world and diminished our ability to lead the international effort against terrorism, which again is the real threat.

With U.S. focus on Iraq, the war in Afghanistan has intensified because of the resurgence of the Taliban and al Qaeda in the absence of the fullest effort on our part there.

As Major General John Baptiste said, Here is the bottom line. Americans must come to grips with the fact that our military alone cannot establish a democracy. We cannot sustain the current operational tempo without seriously damaging the Army and the Marine Corps. Our troops have been asked to carry the burden of an ill-conceived mission. End of quote, Major General John Baptiste.

Our troops have done everything that they have been asked to do and excellently. We salute them for their courage, their patriotism, and the sacrifices they and their families are making. Instead of being honored as the heroes they are when they come home, our wounded veterans are being forced to cope with a system that is not equipped to care for them. Preparation was not made.

Americans have been shocked by the revelations of the appalling care at Walter Reed. As Senator Max Cleland, a great patriot, a decorated Army veteran, said, Walter Reed is the ugly face of the Iraq war. It is a face that the American people need to see because this administration from the beginning never planned to deal with casualties, never planned for the consequences of this war.

Last fall, the American people voted for a new direction in Iraq. They made it clear that our troops must be given all they need to do their jobs but that our troops must be brought home responsibly, safely and soon.

The President responded to this clear call for winding down the war in Iraq with a policy of escalation in Iraq that has been tried three times previously and failed and, additionally, has burdened our already strained military.

The problems addressed in this bill are problems of the President's own making. From the start of the war, the President has failed to recognize and to request in his budget the funds needed by our troops serving in Iraq, as has been indicated by the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. OBEY.

□ 2000

This is the seventh emergency appropriations bill that Congress has had to pass to make up for the President's failure, seven emergencies. What is the surprise? Why aren't they understanding the cost of this war in lives and health, in reputation, in dollars, and the readiness of our military?

Furthermore, the President's budgets have failed to provide adequately for the medical needs of our troops wounded in Iraq and for other veterans. This bill supports our troops, honors our commitments to our veterans, rebuilds our military, and holds the Iraqi government accountable. It winds down the war by providing for the responsible redeployment of our combat forces based on benchmarks endorsed by the Iraqi government and by President Bush. They are his own benchmarks.

Oddly, though, even though they are the President's own benchmarks, holding the administration accountable to benchmarks has been criticized by the administration. They are criticizing their own benchmarks. Yet both Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and retired Major General Paul Eaton, formerly in charge of training of Iraqi security forces, have noted the value of timelines in persuading Iraqis to make the political compromises needed to end the violence.

Secretary Gates noted, we are all familiar with this, it bears repeating, "The strong feelings expressed in Congress about the timetables probably has had a positive impact . . . in terms of communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment."

General Eaton said, "This bill gives General Petraeus great leverage for moving the Iraqi government down the more disciplined path laid out by the Iraq Study Group."

My colleagues, the war in Iraq has lasted longer than World War II and resulted in the lowest level of American military readiness since the Vietnam War. It has cost thousands of American lives, tens of thousands, scores of thousands of Iraqi lives, plus tens of thousands of our soldiers to suffer grievous injuries, and will cost well over \$1 trillion if the war ended today.

The sacrifices borne by our troops and their families demand more than the blank check the President is asking for, for a war without end. The sacrifices demand a plan for bringing the war to an end. This bill contains that plan and provides the President for every dollar he asked for the troops, and, indeed, thank you, Mr. MURTHA, much more.

I urge my colleagues to support it. I urge the President to sign the bill so that we can focus on winning the war against terrorism, which is the real threat to the American people. That is our responsibility, and we fully intend to honor it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, we know that this conference report before us will be vetoed by the President because of the Iraqi withdrawal language and the many unrelated and costly spending items that have absolutely nothing to do with the global war on terror or recovery efforts in the gulf coast.

It is no secret that many Members of the House and Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, have strong reservations about the manner in which this legislation undermines the authority of the President, our Commander in Chief. Members are also rightly concerned about how this legislation places military decisions in the hands of politicians rather than the military commanders in the field.

As I have said many times before, this legislation ought to focus on our troops. It ought to focus on providing those in harm's way with the resources they need to complete their mission successfully. It ought to respect, not micromanage, our combatant commanders in whom we place the ultimate responsibility for prosecuting military actions.

My colleagues know that I have great respect for my friend, Mr. MURTHA, but I strongly disagree with his assertion that we ought to have 535 Members and Senators micromanaging the war in Iraq. With all due respect, that is not our job.

Let me again remind my colleagues, we are not generals, we are not the Secretary of State, and we most certainly are not the Commander in Chief. It is tragically ironic that the House is considering this conference report the same day that General David Petraeus met with Members in closed session on the current situation in Iraq.

It was on January 26 of this year, just 3 months ago, that the Senate voted 81-0 to confirm General Petraeus to be the top military commander in Iraq. One would have thought that Members and Senators would trust his judgment following such an extraordinary vote of confidence over 3 months ago. Senator REID, who supported the General's confirmation, now says, and I quote, "I don't believe him."

Recent history reminds us that the enemy we face in Iraq, in Afghanistan and other countries that harbor terrorists will stop at nothing to seek opportunities to attack the United States and our allies. Have we not learned anything from the original World Trade Center bombing in 1993, the Khobar Towers bombing, the attack on USS Cole or 9/11 itself?

Al Qaeda will view this legislation as the first sign of the United States backing down from its commitment to the war on terror. It will view the withdrawal provisions contained in this conference report as America signaling retreat and surrender. Indeed, al Qaeda will view this as a day that the House of Representatives threw in the towel, waved the white flag and signaled retreat and surrender in Iraq.

Our failure to learn the lessons of history, our failure to lead today, will result in devastating consequences, including an even greater loss of lives, and even more resources needed to fight tomorrow. Just as we have only one top General in Iraq, one Secretary of State and one Commander in Chief, we only have one Speaker of the House at a time.

Speaker PELOSI and I have been friends and have served as colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for many years. The Speaker played an important role in supporting the development of unmanned aerial vehicles, a critical and successful military capability that is a key element to the war on terror. She and I worked on that in the Intelligence Committee together years ago. It is puzzling to me that the Speaker would not only openly question the judgment of General Petraeus, Secretary Rice, and our Commander in Chief, but that she would also willingly work to undermine their efforts to secure a successful outcome in Iraq.

My colleagues, it is absolutely essential that America, the last remaining superpower on Earth, continue to be the voice for peace and freedom in our shrinking world. Our success is critical. Walking away will further signal to Syria, Iran, Afghanistan and others that the United States is no longer committed to a successful outcome in Iraq.

In closing, I ask Speaker PELOSI and my friends in the majority to weigh the implications of supporting this conference report. Even as I hold hope that the Speaker might have a road-to-Damascus conversion, I ask her to weigh the enormous consequences of putting our troops in peril. I strongly urge a "no" vote on this emergency supplemental.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the Chair of the Foreign Operations appropriations subcommittee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 1591 and commend Chairman OBEY for your efforts to protect our troops, respect the wishes of the American people, and preserve our Nation's interest in this bill.

Our troops have served with honor and courage. However, they should be deployed only when battle ready and with a clear and achievable mission. Neither is the case today in Iraq. Recent reports indicate the troop surge is not working. The number of casualties rose again in March, and this bloody trend continues.

We have heard from this administration that it is not willing to negotiate on Iraq. Frankly, their unwillingness to compromise has led us to this point, and the right of the American people to be heard is nonnegotiable. No amount of American blood or treasure can help Iraq if the Iraqis don't help themselves.

The Maliki government must exhibit the political will to confront extremists, to give all segments of society a stake in Iraq's future, and to put Iraqi revenues towards the hard task of reconstruction. That is why this bill asks the President to certify that the Iraqis are doing their part in meeting critical benchmarks.

In addition, I am pleased the conference report includes nearly \$200 million in increased funding for Afghanistan, \$80.3 million for Jordan, \$45 million for Liberia, \$769 million for Lebanon, much needed assistance for Sudan and Somalia, increased funding for disaster and refugee aid to Iraq, increased accountability through funding expanded mandates for the special Inspector General and the State and USAID IG operations.

While this bill provides most of the funding requested by the President, it puts in place safeguards and oversight to stop waste, fraud and abuse with U.S. taxpayer dollars in Iraq.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the ranking member on Homeland Security, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise, regrettably, today in opposition to the supplemental conference report before us, the first time I have risen in opposition to an appropriations conference report in more than 12 years. The Democratic side of the aisle and many of their liberal newspaper editors are intent on substituting their judgment for that of our professional, trained, experienced military leaders.

I am reminded of a quote that I want to read to you, it's very brief, that speaks to this subject. I will tell you the author in just a moment. 'It appears we have appointed our worst generals to command forces, and our most gifted and brilliant citizens to edit newspapers. In fact, I discovered by reading newspapers that these editor geniuses plainly saw all my strategic defects from the start, yet failed to inform me until it was too late. Accordingly, I am readily willing to yield my command to these obviously superior intellects, and I will, in turn, do my best for the cause by writing editorials after the fact.' Signed, Robert E. Lee.

This Congress is made up of 535 lawyers, doctors and teachers, some with military experience, some without. It is not, however, made up of 535 military commanders who possess the ability to manage a war against al Qaeda. Yet that is what this conference report does. It enables over just half of 535 politicians to micromanage the war in Iraq against al Qaeda.

Sadly, though, this is not the only reason to vote against this conference report. It's also full of billions of dollars in spending categorized as an emergency which undermines the true needs of our troops and gulf coast hur-

ricane recovery efforts. Specifically for Homeland Security, the supplemental contains two categories of emergency funding, hurricane recovery and the global war on terrorism.

Speaking to the hurricane recovery portion, this is a true 2007 emergency. FEMA needs these funds now to continue our commitment to the devastated gulf coast region and to ensure the disaster relief fund does not run dry in the middle of what experts are predicting will be an active hurricane season.

I can only hope that in an effort to keep the overall exorbitant spending of the bill down, the majority has not shortchanged the true needs of this account.

The global war on terrorism, part of this funding bill, is another story. While it contains many worthy and important items such as nuclear and explosive detection systems and additional aircraft for the northern border, things I have supported in the past and continue to support, they are in no way a 2007 emergency. In every instance, these items could and should be addressed in the regular 2008 appropriations bill. By including them in this 2007 emergency, the majority is simply trying to look strong on security and buy down requirements to free up funds in 2008 for additional spending.

□ 2015

While I support homeland security spending, I support it in a fiscally responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have two such compelling reasons to vote against a bill: taking away authority to manage our war against al Qaeda from the military commanders, and carelessly adding billions of dollars in non-emergency spending. These are the very reasons we will be back here addressing these matters again in a couple of weeks after the President vetoes the bill.

We should address these issues now, and stop the political gamesmanship that harms both our troops and the gulf coast recovery effort. This bill is nothing short of a cut-and-run in the fight against al Qaeda. I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this bill is not cut and run. It's think and succeed. It's a good policy to try.

Mr. Speaker, tonight this House will adopt this reasonable conference report that fully funds our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and that responds to the will of the American people, who are demanding, demanding, that our Nation change course. I urge all of our Members here, on both sides of the aisle, to support this bill.

After the Senate passes this conference report and it is sent to the White House, I urge and implore the President to sign this bill, even though

he seems determined to veto this legislation, thereby defying the will of the American people, 70 percent of whom disapprove of his handling of the war in Iraq.

I know there is not a Member in this body who does not pray for our success in Iraq and for the safe return of our brave servicemen and women who serve us there. However, we cannot ignore the facts. After the loss of more than 3,300 American soldiers and nearly 25,000 injured, and after the expenditure of more than \$400 billion, which will be after the end of this fiscal year some \$600 billion, on a war now in its fifth year, even President Bush and Secretary of Defense Gates acknowledge that our efforts are not succeeding.

The Defense Department has concluded that the situation in Iraq is "properly descriptive of a civil war." The Army Chief of Staff has issued warnings about the effect of the war on America's overall military readiness. And the Iraq Government has failed to meet political goals, such as reversing debaathification, drafting a plan for national reconciliation and disbanding militias, all of which are essential if we are to reach a political solution, as General Petraeus says is necessary.

In fact, last week, six ministers loyal to Muqtada al Sadr withdrew from the Iraqi Government, imperiling the chances of political resolution, which General Petraeus, as I said, says is imperative because, quoting again General Petraeus, "There is no military solution to a problem like that in Iraq." General Petraeus: "There is no military solution to a problem like that in Iraq."

Meanwhile, the violence in Iraq continues. In just the last 2 weeks, a suicide attack inside the Iraqi Parliament killed eight, and spectacular car bombs, which occur almost daily, have killed hundreds.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, the question before the Members again today is this: Will we change direction in Iraq, or will we continue to stay the course with a failing policy? That is the question before this House tonight.

The answer, I think, is clear. After 4 years of rubber-stamping this administration's failed policy, not a service to the American people, this Congress must insist on accountability and a new direction. As the Speaker has said, more blank checks from this Congress would constitute an abdication of our responsibility and of our duty.

In short, this conference report protects our troops, requiring deployments to adhere to existing Defense Department standards. Mr. MURTHA has not adopted these standards, nor has Mr. OBEY, nor have any of us on this side of the aisle. These are Defense Department standards for training, acquiring equipment and armor, while allowing the President to waive those standards that are the Defense Department standards if, in his judgment, national security requires it. How much

more responsible a position can we take?

The conference report holds the Iraqi Government accountable. I think that reflects the sentiments of the American people, who believe that the Iraqis need to step up and take responsibility. What Secretary Gates said was if we do not have a consequence of not taking responsibility, they will not do it.

In fact, even if Mr. Maliki wants to do it, he will not be able to get the disparate factions in Iraq to do it, unless they feel a necessity to do it. We've seen that here in this Congress. That's democracy at work. So this is an assistance to the Iraqi Government to bring people together, because it says if you don't, there is a consequence. The American public supports that alternative.

And it includes a responsible strategy for a phased redeployment of U.S. forces and refocuses, refocuses our efforts on fighting al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan. There is nobody in this Congress who does not want to nor is not committed to confronting and defeating terrorism. No one should be misled by the false claims of those who argue that we must follow the same failing stay-the-course strategy. This bill does not constitute capitulation or micromanaging this war.

This may sound harsh, but had somebody told Custer that you are not supporting the troops unless you leave them here, they would have been wrong. As retired General Paul Eaton, who was in charge of training the Iraqi military in 2003 and 2004 recently stated, "This bill gives General Petraeus great leverage for moving the Iraqi Government down the more disciplined path laid out by the Iraq Study Group. The real audience for the timeline language is Prime Minister Maliki," as I have said, "and the elected Government of Iraq." So concluded Paul Eaton, the general in charge of training Iraqis in 2003 and 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want and deserve a Congress that holds the Iraqis accountable for making progress. The American people are paying a steep price; our children are paying a steep price for this war. They haven't been given the bill yet, but they will be. And our young men and women, and not so young men and women, are paying with their lives, with their limbs, and with their health.

The American people want and deserve, as I have said, a Congress that holds the Iraqis accountable, that holds the administration accountable for implementing a policy designed to succeed. This conference report gives us that opportunity.

I urge all of my colleagues, on every side of the aisle, from whatever party, support this conference report. I urge the President, when we pass this conference report, when the Senate passes it and we send it to the President, sign this conference report. It fully funds our troops, it does not micromanage

the war, it tells the Iraqis we expect accountability; because if they take accountability, our troops will be safer, our country will be better off and Iraq will be on the path to democracy that we hope for her and pray for her.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the ranking member on Military Construction of Appropriations, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I served as a conferee on this bill Monday afternoon, and I was disappointed at what I saw. Everyone in the room knew then, as they know now, that President Bush will veto this legislation because it contains dangerous timelines for withdrawal in Iraq, undercutting our chances for success and making a political statement at a time when we should be working in a bipartisan manner to give our troops the resources they need to succeed.

Many of us heard General Petraeus this afternoon. I think most Members are highly impressed with his command of the situation and his candor. We ought to be willing to give him and his new strategy a chance. Instead, the bill before us tonight would guarantee failure.

This is a futile exercise and a waste of valuable time. It ensures further delay in getting the equipment, supplies and support to the troops. Because Congress has not provided this funding already, our military leaders must shuffle existing funds. Spending on new equipment will be postponed and repair work will be slowed on equipment needed elsewhere around the world, and the Pentagon will have to curtail training for National Guard and Reserve units. This will hamper their capabilities and their readiness.

The veto will come quickly, and, when it does, I hope the majority will not engage in further attempts to micromanage the war. Let's craft a responsible, focused supplemental package that funds the military and demonstrates to our soldiers that we support their efforts to complete the mission.

Contrary to what some in the Democratic leadership say, the war is not lost. Let's not legislate as if it is.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. We are legislators. The President has a job and we who represent the people have a job. It funds the war, a war that the other side started, and the speech that they are giving tonight is the same speech they gave 4 years ago.

It's time to change course. This bill funds veterans who have been wounded severely, children who need health care, and all the emergencies that this country needs to address and has not been taking care of the last decade.

Pass the bill.

Mr. President, sign the bill. It's the best bill. The Senate and House have agreed, and we don't care that the President has said, before we even passed it out of the first Chamber, that he would veto it. We have to pass this bill, bring our troops home, and have a plan for success.

This is a good conference report. Americans, speak out. If the President does veto the bill, there is something to be paid. The troops need our help and our support, and I thank Chairman OBEY and Chairman MURTHA for their leadership. Vote for the conference report.

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

This vote will affect us today, it will affect our children tomorrow, it will affect our grandchildren of the next generation. Unlike some of our colleagues, I refuse to legislate any bill, much less this bill, merely because the President has issued a veto threat. Our brand of government has lasted for more than 230 years because of the separation of powers. The President needs the money, and Congress controls the power of the purse.

We have the opportunity to change course, confront crises, and continue the legacy of not only the Democratic Party but of America with this vote today.

As of April 23, 2007, there have been 3,333 U.S. Military Deaths Confirmed by the Department of Defense. There have been at least 20,000 women and men who have been wounded, and untold numbers of women and men who have been affected by traumatic brain injuries that we are just discovering, and will suffer for decades from post traumatic stress disorder.

The Democrats have worked to compromise with the Administration. While I, like many of my colleagues, hoped that we would retain the House language with regard to the troop deployment provisions, I understand that honesty and compromise are the hallmarks of this august body.

Make no mistake about it; this vote is a vote to support our troops and will bring an end to the war in the near future. The military options for Iraq are exhausted; we need to pursue diplomatic solutions so that the Iraqis and other countries in the Middle East can be real shareholders in the fate of Iraq.

This supplemental enforces the President's own benchmarks that the Iraqis protect and end their civil war. This bill has the military's own standards for readiness and deployment. This bill provides more than the President requested for military procurement, construction, health care, and readiness.

I am proud that the Committee supported my request for increased funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, to remove the matching funds for many of the grants and loans going to the rebuilding of states affected by Hurricane Katrina, in particular the city of New Orleans.

\$450 million for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)/Counseling: African American male Vietnam and Iraq theater veterans have higher rates of PTSD than Whites. Rates of current PTSD are 28% among Hispanics, 21% among African Americans, and 14 percent

among Whites. African Americans have greater exposure to war stresses and had more predisposing factors than Whites, which appeared to account for their higher rate of PTSD.

\$450 million for Traumatic Brain Injury care and research: Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the function of the brain.

\$20 million to address the problems at Walter Reed: When the federal base-closing commission recommended shutting down Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, it was noted through a number of reports that most of the patients and communities affected were African-American.

\$100 million to allow the VA to contract with private mental healthcare providers to offer veterans, including Guard and reserve members, quality and timely care: African Americans are more likely to be victims of serious violent crime than are non-Hispanic whites.

Food Assistance (PL 480 Title II): Adds \$450 million, which is \$100 million above the President's request, to support food aid in Sudan/Eastern Chad, Southern Africa, and the Horn of Africa.

Agricultural Assistance: Adds \$3.7 billion. According to the National Farmers Union, over 80 percent of U.S. counties were designated as disaster areas in 2005, and 60 percent were declared in 2006, making this assistance essential if farmers are to maintain their livelihoods in the coming year.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): The Supplemental adds \$400 million to partially restore cuts to the program.

Pandemic Flu Preparedness: Adds \$1 billion to purchase vaccines needed to protect us from a global pandemic.

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP): As amended in Committee, the proposal adds \$750 million for SCHIP to ensure continued healthcare coverage for children in 14 states that face a budget shortfall in the program.

Foreign Aid: \$40 million in security assistance is added for Liberia. This provision was added only because of the CBC.

After far too long, the bill will address the outstanding needs of our working women and men by increasing the minimum wage of Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG), the former chairman of the Defense Subcommittee and former chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first I want to make the point as strongly as I can that I want our troops out of Iraq and Afghanistan and anywhere else in the world where they are in harm's way as soon as we can possibly do it without risking the security of our own Nation and the security of our own people.

Mr. MURTHA and I have been partners in this business for many, many years, and he and I have both stood by the bedside of too many wounded troops and have attended too many funerals, and we want this over.

As a matter of fact, the legislation before us, the appropriations part of this defense bill is a good package. Mr. MURTHA and I met prior to him submitting this to the full Appropriations Committee and we agreed. Basically I told Mr. MURTHA that these are about the same numbers that I would have recommended if I were still the chairman. But we did agree to disagree on the issue of the restrictive language on the conduct of the battlefield.

My memory takes me back, as we discuss this legislation now, to October of 1983, where terrorists attacked the Marine barracks in Beirut. The Marines there on a peacekeeping mission and 241 of our troops were killed. In February of 1993, the World Trade Center was bombed, as Chairman LEWIS noted in his comments. Six lives were lost.

□ 2030

In June of 1996, Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, where our airmen were being housed, was bombed. Nineteen American lives were lost. August of 1998, our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed by terrorists again. Two hundred fifty-nine lives were lost. October of 2000, the USS *Cole* off the shore of Yemen was bombed by terrorists. Again, 17 American lives lost, and almost every crewman on the ship injured.

But all this time nothing happened except a lot of rhetoric. Well, we talked a lot. We were going to hunt them down. And you can run, but you can't hide.

But finally, after September 11, the people of America were so incensed by what they saw with the airplanes flying into the two World Trade Centers, the airplane flying into the ground in Pennsylvania, in or near Mr. MURTHA's district, and the airplane flying into the Pentagon right across the river, killing some 3,000 innocent people. The people of America were incensed. They demanded action. The President of the United States promised action, and the Congress provided action. And subsequently, our troops are in Afghanistan and are in Iraq. And it is essential that we provide whatever they need to carry out their mission and to protect themselves while they are carrying out the mission.

But now, what about leaving today or tomorrow or March or July, as some of these restrictions provide?

One of our great successes was Desert Storm. In Desert Storm, we attacked Saddam Hussein's armies successfully, and we annihilated, basically, his army. At least they ran away. They ran for cover. They surrendered. A lot of them lost the battle because the United States was aggressive and our coalition partners.

But here's where we made a mistake. Once we had Saddam's armies defeated, we left. We left before there was anything else there to provide a reasonable, logical government for the people of Iraq.

And what happened? Saddam responded in a vicious attack upon his own Iraqi citizens to continue the genocide that he began in earlier years. After we left from Desert Storm, he killed thousands of Shia Iraqis.

What General Petraeus and our American troops are trying to do is to give the Iraqi government that has been elected by the people, Constitution approved by the people, a parliament elected under the new Constitution by the people; General Petraeus said that the Iraqi security forces were growing in number, were growing in capability. Even the Sunnis are starting to join up with these security forces in Iraq to show a Sunni-Shia coming together. Not much, but a little bit.

But to let this government exist so that we didn't have another situation where we left, we didn't leave anybody in charge, and the bad guys took over again.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, you know, it's hard for me to even sit here and hear the other side talk about this, because they are missing the point. This is about our soldiers. If you care about our soldiers, you say you care about our soldiers, you will vote for this supplemental.

This supplemental has over \$4 billion more than what the President asked for in everything. I'll tell you what this supplemental is about. It's about those soldiers that I visited in Landstuhl, Germany. On three different occasions, every time we went over to Iraq and over to Afghanistan we'd make a stop to come back.

You want to know what this supplemental is about? It's about those sons and daughters, 19 and 20 years old, who will never walk again with their legs because they have been cut off.

You talk about the President wants to veto this. Let's send it to him. Let him veto it. If he vetoes this bill that's got the money in it for the body armor that he sent troops into battlefield without, let him veto this. If he vetoes this bill, it will be like sending a dagger right in the heart of our soldiers.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to Mr. KINGSTON of Georgia, a member of the committee.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill said, "The United States of America always does the right thing after it has exhausted all the other alternatives."

And what we are doing here tonight, through the Democrat Party, is exhausting all the other alternatives.

This bill is wrong for a number of reasons. First of all, the Democrat leadership promised to cut out the pork and nondefense spending and give us a clean bill. But this bill contains minimum wage legislation, children's health care appropriations, \$31 million for milk subsidies, \$460 million for food aid, much of that not even going to the

Middle East, \$40 million for grain storage, \$37 million for new computers for the FSA in Kansas City, \$4 million for the Office of Women's Health, and \$15 million for livestock subsidies.

What does this have to do with Iraq? Not a thing.

And yet some of this stuff may have a lot of merit and get bipartisan support. But why not bring it up on the proper pieces of legislation, not on a military aid bill?

It's interesting, one of the Democrat Senators actually justified the non-military spending saying, "But the Republicans did it." And I agree with her. She's right. We did it. And that's why we are in the minority. The American people are tired of these kind of shenanigans.

Let's pull these items out and have a debate on their own merits, not on the backs of soldiers in Iraq.

Let's talk about Iraq. The Constitution, article I, section 2, says, and I quote, "The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States and of the militia of the several States when called into the actual service of the United States."

In other words, the President, as Commander in Chief, runs wars, not 535 arm chair generals on Capitol Hill.

But this legislation, or surrender document, usurps the President's constitutional prerogative. For this reason alone we should reject it.

And finally, let's talk about the gist of this surrender. Putting a timeline on a war is great if the enemy agrees with it. But for some reason, they never do. Never in the history of war has a country won by announcing their surrender date to the world. It's odd, it's reckless, and it won't work.

We should not micromanage this war. We should do as Winston Churchill said and do the right thing.

And I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart. This week, nine of my fellow paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division were killed in Iraq. Nine more heroes killed, nine more paratroopers returning home in coffins draped in the American flag.

Mr. Speaker, Daniel Webster's words that are etched in the marble above implore each of us in this room, and I quote, "To see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered."

Mr. Speaker, I know the task is daunting, but let this Congress be remembered for leading our country in a new direction in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I was deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2004. Nineteen of my fellow paratroopers I served with never made it home from the streets of Baghdad. I carry their names with me every single day to remind myself of the solemn re-

sponsibility we face each time the Speaker bangs down her gavel.

Nineteen men, including Specialist Chad Keith from Indiana. Nineteen guys who never made it home to their families. Specialist James Lambert III, from North Carolina. Nineteen all Americans who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Private Kyle Gilbert from Vermont. Nineteen men who are missed. Private First Class Marc Seidan from New Jersey. Nineteen men. Now we have nine more paratroopers to add to this list.

Mr. Speaker, how many more suicide bombs must kill American soldiers before this President offers a time line for our troops to come home?

How many more military leaders must declare the war will not be won militarily before this President demands that the Iraqis stand up and fight for their country?

How many more terrorists will President Bush's foreign policy breed before he focuses on developing a new strategy, a real strategy for fighting and beating al Qaeda?

Mr. Speaker, this bill says enough is enough. No more shortchanging our troops. No more open ended commitment in Iraq. No more refereeing a religious civil war.

Mr. Speaker, on the fourth anniversary of the war, I led this body in a moment of silence. Now my fellow Democrats offer a time line to bring our troops home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who are about to vote "no" on this bill, will you stand with us next year to offer a time line on the war's fifth anniversary?

How about a time line on the sixth? How about a time line on the 10th? Because that's what voting "no" does. It says no to the tough questions. No to accountability and no to providing our troops on the ground with a clear mission.

Mr. Speaker, I may be hopeful, but I am not naive. I hear Vice President CHENEY taunt patriotic Americans who are concerned with the direction of our country. I see the President using his veto to hold our troops hostage to further his failed strategy in Iraq. I read the Bush Republicans' attacks questioning my patriotism and support for my fellow soldiers. But, Mr. Speaker, we have all heard these attacks before.

The American people know that President Bush and his allies are sadly out of touch. The American people know that supporting the troops means demanding accountability. The American people know we need a change.

Mr. Speaker, one of my fellow soldiers lost his brother in the World Trade Center on September 11 of 2001. This soldier is now in Iraq serving on his second deployment. And last week he sent me a message, unsolicited. It said, and I quote, "Never did I think I would disagree with our foreign policy 5 years after my brother was murdered. Our latest mission here is to secure the

Iraqi people. I signed up to secure the American people."

My fellow colleagues, this bill, this vote helps us secure the American people. For too long the American people have been craving leadership, craving accountability, and craving a new direction in Iraq. Let's give this to them today.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the ranking member on the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, when the new majority came into power, they talked about being fiscally conservative. They talked about bringing fiscal responsibility back to the people's House. Well, that's not what we see here today, and that's not what we have seen for the last 4 months.

Last session, Mr. Speaker, we brought a bill that said if we are going to do emergency spending bills, let's clean these up. Let's not put pork barrel, unnecessary spending in emergency spending. We actually defined what an emergency is.

□ 2045

And then we set aside a reserve fund, \$6.4 billion, to say we are setting this aside for emergency spending, and if we go over this amount, we have to scrutinize every dollar to make sure that it is truly an emergency.

What did the new majority do? To their credit, they carried these rules over into this session of Congress. Thankfully, they said, you know what? Let's not pork up emergency spending bills. Let's make sure that if it's really an emergency, it will get funded as an emergency. If it's not, it won't.

What happened the first time the pressure hit? They waived the rules. They waived the rules completely. And now the new budget resolution the majority is proposing gets rid of these proposals altogether. No more checks on emergency spending. All it takes is to waive the rules, stamp it as an emergency, and we can spend as much as we want. It's outside the budget caps. It gets added onto the deficit. And that's what is happening right here tonight.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, this bill right here violates the majority's own PAYGO rules by \$5.8 billion. That's right. They are violating their own PAYGO that they put into place just a few months ago by \$5.8 billion. They are adding \$21 billion of nonemergency spending that were unrequested, that have nothing to do with the war on terror. And they have added \$11 billion of congressional add-ons that have nothing to do with the war on terror, that were not requested.

The majority came out with their first spending bill, adding \$6 billion on top of the deficit. Now they are adding \$21 billion on top of the deficit with this unrequested, nonemergency spending. And in their budget resolution they are bringing to the floor, another \$25 billion next year.

Fiscal responsibility is the last thing you could say to describe this bill. I urge rejection of this motion.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say in response to the previous speaker, last session your party couldn't even pass a budget. Last session your party couldn't complete action on a single domestic appropriation bill.

You may not like the decisions we have made, but at least we have made them. And we have had to spend the first 30 days of this session finishing the work that you could never manage to get around to. So I suggest you look to your own house before you start criticizing somebody who has at least gotten the work done that you couldn't get done last year.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

It has been so interesting to listen to the debate this evening. I am reminded of my school teacher grandmother and an admonition that she would regularly give us to us, which was "Your actions speak louder than your words." And she would remind us of this time and time again.

And, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you, quite frankly, I think that what we are seeing is the actions of a majority who are doing their best to ensure, to ensure, that our men and women in uniform do not have the funding that they need.

I represent a lot of these military men and women, and I have heard from them. I am hearing from a lot of the military men and women and their families, and they feel like the modified withdrawal dates in this legislative disaster are nothing more than a vote of no confidence for our troops. They feel that this legislation will embolden our enemies and send a message to the rest of the world that they believe that they are more qualified to prosecute a war than the men and women we are sending to the frontlines. That is something, Mr. Speaker, that they do disagree with.

Our military leadership deserves the opportunity to fight this war with the funding and the support that they need to accomplish their goals. They deserve the ability and the opportunity to win. Yet the leadership in this House continues to try their best to micro-manage the war and our troops without the funding that they need.

Despite what the majority leader in the other body and his supporters in the House believe, this war is not lost. Yet this dead-on-arrival supplemental bill will only exacerbate the problem and put our troops in harm's way.

I think that we should show our respect for the men and women in uniform by respecting the job they do. We should do our job: Send the funding to the troops.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to our Republican whip, Mr. BLUNT.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding as this debate comes to an end.

The legislation we have debated here tonight was at one point supposed to be an emergency supplemental spending bill for our troops, dispatched to them with urgency, resolution, and purpose. It was supposed to provide money and resources for our fighting men and women on the frontlines so that they had the tools and equipment they needed to finish the task at hand.

Instead the majority turned this important funding package into an exercise in political theater, along the way, disregarding the testimony of our military commanders, the wishes of many in their own caucus, and basic and numerous dictates of our Constitution and our history.

The result has been a final conference report, though we know it really won't be a final conference report. It has been a conference report that imposes artificial deadlines, ties the hands of our commanders in the field, and demotes those tasked with managing an active military engagement to the rank of administrative assistant, forced to check new boxes before exercising the authority they have today to execute their mission.

And it would spend billions of dollars on things that should have been debated at another time. Some of those things have merit. Some of those things I agree with. Some of them I don't. But they shouldn't have been debated as part of this bill.

Those who attended today's briefing with General Petraeus benefited from a clear and sober assessment of our chances for achieving success in Iraq and the consequences we can expect by declaring defeat. But not a single person in that room today, with knowledge of our progress on the ground, believes this war was lost or that our presence there was without merit. Unfortunately, too many in this Chamber seem convinced of the inevitability of defeat.

However this vote turns out, I am hopeful that tonight's roll call will end this effort to undercut our mission by undermining the authority of our commanders in the field. Republicans are willing, and have been willing, to work with the majority on this bill. But we will not waver on our insistence that an emergency troop support bill passed by Congress actually be focused on supporting the troops. The legislation before us tonight fails to meet that most basic standard.

I urge a "no" vote on this bill and ask my colleagues to join me tonight in standing up for the interests of our men and women in harm's way. And hopefully, very soon, we can join together in crafting a bill that will be considered quickly, as this one should have been, passed quickly, with help to the frontlines as soon as possible.

It's time for the political theater to end and the real work to begin.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I simply want to take this time to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle. They worked overtime for many days and many nights, and I appreciate it very much, especially the committee staff director, Rob Nabors.

I would also simply say that we have heard twice now from the minority that this bill endorses failure. Not at all. What we have seen the last 4 years is a failure of intelligence. We have seen a failure of the administration to listen to career military. We have seen a failure to plan for the occupation of Iraq. We have seen a failure on the part of the administration to give the Congress accurate information. We have seen a failure to focus on al Qaeda and Afghanistan rather than being diverted to Iraq. We have seen a failure to understand the nature of the civil war in Iraq. And as a result, we have seen a tremendous collapse of American influence in the world. It is tragic.

I urge an "aye" vote for the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to Mr. MURTHA.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, apparently a number of people have not read this bill. I know my friend BILL YOUNG has read it.

We have \$1.5 billion to cover the full cost of housing allowances for the troops. If you vote against this, you are voting against housing allowances. We have a total of \$2.3 billion in this bill to cover the full cost of fielding an additional 36,000 Army troops and 9,000 Marines. If you've read this bill, you'll realize we added \$2 billion to address the training and equipment shortfalls in the forces not deployed. One billion dollars is dedicated to purchase Army National Guard equipment. If you vote against it, you're voting against \$1 billion for the National Guard. You're voting against an additional \$750 million for Afghanistan. You're voting against \$2.4 billion with a joint IED task force. In procurement you're voting against the very thing that the military wants most, and that is the new vehicle with the V shape which is resistant to IEDs.

Now, let me talk a little bit about IEDs. In the last 4 months, we have lost more troops than any other period during this war. And I am sorry to hear from a friend of mine's wife who called me and said there was a joke on one of the shows last night by a Republican Presidential candidate who said that he brought an IED back and he put it under this guy's desk. That individual owes an apology to every troop that serves in Iraq.

When we go to the hospital, all of us, we see burn victims. We see victims that are wounded badly. And many of us don't get an opportunity to see the families.

I went to Fort Hood, Fort Bragg, and Fort Stewart. These folks are burned out. The truancy rate is up in the schools. The achievement is down in the schools where our troops' children go. One soldier said to me, a first sergeant, a woman, she says, I hate to tell my children I'm going back to Iraq.

They're going back the third and fourth time.

□ 2100

A general said to me, "I can only take 9 months." And we're sending them back to 18; I hear rumors that they are going to extend them to 18 months.

We have an accountability bill, this is called the "Iraq accountability bill." This war has been so mismanaged that we have the responsibility to force the White House to be accountable. The policy is not set by the military, the policy is set by the White House, and we have to hold the White House accountable for the mistakes that they have made.

We will have appropriated \$1.2 trillion for the Defense Department in 1 year. We are spending nearly \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan and Iraq. We have 126,000 contractors. And it took us 2 months, the committee that funds every cent that is spent in Iraq and Afghanistan had to spend 2 months to find out there were 126,000 contractors. And we told this to the Secretary of Defense. When one of the Members of Congress said, and one of them is making \$300,000 a year, one of the contractors, he said, "That's more than I make." Imagine, we've got a contractor making more than the Secretary of Defense makes. We have a contractor that I saw, when I talked to the Cavalry Division that was in Iraq, here is a guy pumping gas, this is what a soldier told me, he gets \$25,000 a year, and right beside him was a guy pumping gas for \$80,000 a year. This is what I call accountability.

We have to hold the White House responsible for accountability. Why do they have 126,000 contractors? Because we don't have enough troops. Why are they extending the troops to 18 months, possibly?

And finally, they realized they couldn't send them back before they had a year at home. They had to be trained and they had to be equipped. That is what we say in this bill, we say you've got to be trained and equipped.

I had General Pace come up after the last hearing. I said, General, you've got to tell me you're not sending any troops back there untrained and ill-equipped. And I don't know that this conversation made the difference, but a short time later they announced they are going to extend people, and they are not going to send anybody back unless they had a year at home. It is absolutely essential.

I talked to some of the wives at Fort Bragg. I got one story from the hospitals about how the service was there, they were able to get service anytime

they wanted, within a week they were able to get service. Then I talked to the wives, the officers' wives, I said, after talking to them for a while, how many of you got service in a week? No hands went up. How many did it take over a month? Half the hands went up. We've got to take care of the people at home.

Let me tell you something, I get fatigued in going to the hospitals. The caregivers that care for them every day, think what they go through. A nurse called me and said you've got to put some money in the bill, and we did, to take care of caregivers to give them some relief. These caregivers see it every day. So we put \$6 million in for Landstuhl program. We put \$1 million in for Walter Reed, for Brooke's and for Bethesda. They are burned out. The troops are burned out. What we are trying to do in this bill is hold the White House accountable for the policy mistakes that they made.

We went into Iraq without weapons of mass destruction. I believed it. When I went there the first time, I saw a line drawn around Baghdad. They told me they were going to use biological weapons. I believed that. It took me 6 or 7 months to realize we had made a mistake. We went to Afghanistan, it was the right place to go.

I am inspired by these troops, I am inspired by their families; but they are burned out and they are bearing as much as they can bear. When we sit here, and one of the previous speakers said "we." I hear this all the time, "we're fighting," "we're fighting terrorists." We are not fighting terrorism, we are sitting here in an air conditioned place while they are out there in dust.

And let me tell you about the policy in this latest deployment. I worried. I didn't say anything in public, but I worried. When you send 37 different elements out by themselves among the Iraqis, when you've got interpreters who you don't trust, you are going to expect the kind of disasters you just saw. That's the thing that worries me when you don't have enough troops. And one general said to me, he said, "If you're there more than 9 months, you start making mistakes." Imagine what he's saying? He said, "I question myself after 9 months." A psychologist told us, who came before the committee, he said 3 months in heavy combat, 3 months of going out every day and having IEDs, imagine a Presidential candidate making jokes about IEDs when these kids are blown apart? It's outrageous.

Let me tell you something, we owe a great deal of gratitude to these families and these young people who are doing the fighting. It's not "we" doing the fighting, it's "them" doing the fighting. They deserve accountability from the Congress of the United States, and we are going to demand that from this accountability bill.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this Defense Supplemental conference report.

Earlier, when the House considered the Defense Supplemental bill itself, I voted for it to ensure that America's soldiers get the equipment and resources they need and the top-quality health care they may require when they come home.

And I think the conference report is an improvement on that House bill.

As I said when the House debated the initial bill and again during debate on the motion to instruct conferees, I did not believe it was a good idea for the bill to include a date certain for withdrawing U.S. combat troops from Iraq. So I'm glad that language has been made more flexible in the conference report. It includes a goal of March 2008 for completing the redeployment of U.S. combat troops, and allows sufficient troops to remain to protect U.S. military and civilians in Iraq, conduct counterterrorism operations, and train Iraqi Security Forces. I remain convinced that we should steer clear of arbitrary public deadlines for military actions and focus instead on realistic diplomatic and political goals. Our military needs flexibility to be able to link movements of U.S. troops to the realities of the situation on the ground, and successful diplomacy requires such flexibility as well.

My vote for the conference report is not a vote to support the Bush administration's policy in Iraq. We are 4 years into a war the Bush administration assured us would be short and decisive. The administration's misjudgments, lack of planning and poor leadership have made a bad situation worse—and the tactic of increasing troops for a temporary "surge" is no substitute for what is needed, namely, a strategy for containing civil war and a wider regional war.

But whatever may be said about the wisdom of invading Iraq 4 years ago—and I am one who believed it was a mistake to do so—the fact is that we are still deeply engaged in Iraq. So long as our troops are in the field, we must provide them what they need. Beyond supplying our soldiers, however, we must extricate them from what objective defense experts have characterized as an emerging civil war.

Disengaging from that civil war is the purpose of the provisions in the conference report designed to hold the president accountable to the benchmarks set by his own administration and the Iraqi Government—including enactment of a hydro-carbon law; conducting of provincial and local elections; reform of current laws governing the de-Baathification process; amendment of the Constitution of Iraq; and allocation of Iraqi revenues for reconstruction projects.

I strongly support that approach because I am convinced that holding the president and the Iraqi Government accountable for achieving these benchmarks will provide us with the leverage necessary to pressure the Iraqi Government to forge the political solution we all know is required. In fact, Defense Secretary Gates has acknowledged that this provision in the House-passed bill has been helpful by showing the Iraqis that American patience is limited.

This conference report is an important step toward what I think must be our goal—a responsible end to the war in Iraq, based on a strategy of phased withdrawal of troops, accelerated diplomacy and redeployment that is based on Iraqi stability and not arbitrary deadlines.

The conference report fully funds our troops, providing \$4 billion more for the troops than

the president requested. It honors our veterans, providing \$1.8 billion more for our veterans' unmet health care needs, including additional funds for treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury care and research. It strengthens our military, providing \$2 billion more to create a Strategic Readiness Reserve and address the serious readiness crisis our military is facing.

It also protects our troops by limiting deployment schedules and setting minimum readiness standards—based on current Defense Department standards—for U.S. troops deploying to the region. The president could waive these requirements but only by certifying in writing to Congress that waiving them would be in the interest of national security.

The conference report also provides \$52.5 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and provides \$9.7 billion for the Afghan and Iraqi Security Forces to help them assume greater responsibility for their nations' security.

And the conference report includes \$3.1 billion to fully fund the Pentagon's FY07 request for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations, which is vitally important for Ft. Carson as it prepares to expand and for other military installations in Colorado.

On the non-military side, the conference report includes critically important funding for farmers and ranchers in southeastern Colorado who were recently hit hard by winter storms. Thousands of cattle were killed in storms worse than the October 1997 storm that killed approximately 30,000 cattle and cost farmers and ranchers an estimated \$28 million. The struggles that family agriculture producers and small counties face are significant and are having a negative impact on the livelihood of hundreds of farmers and ranchers and their communities. So I am pleased that the Colorado delegation was successful in persuading the conferees to include financial assistance for farmers and ranchers, including for those affected by Colorado's recent blizzards.

Mr. Speaker, many of us who voted against authorizing the President to rush to war in Iraq were worried that while it would be easy to eliminate the Saddam Hussein regime, the aftermath would be neither easy nor quick. Sadly, our fears have proven to be justified. And now, as the Pentagon has finally admitted in its most recent quarterly report, the situation in Iraq is "properly descriptive of a civil war."

Insisting on keeping our troops in the middle of that kind of internecine war is not a recipe for victory; it is only a prescription for quagmire. And as a new Foreign Relations Council report notes, we bear responsibility for developments within Iraq, but are increasingly without the ability to shape those developments in a positive direction.

We need to be scaling back our military mission in Iraq. We need to make the U.S. military footprint lighter—not in order to hasten defeat or failure in Iraq, but to salvage a critical measure of security and stability in a region of the world that we can ill afford to abandon.

But as we do so, we must work to avoid a collapse in the region—not only because we have a moral obligation to the people of Iraq, but also because our national security has been so badly compromised by the Bush administration's failures there. The President's

decision to take the nation to war has made our country less safe. We need to change course and chart a path that enhances our national security and sets the right priorities for the war on terrorism and struggle against extremists.

This conference report begins to chart this path, and I will support it. I hope the president will reconsider his stated intention of vetoing it.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the conference report to accompany H.R. 1591.

As I have said on previous occasions, Congress has every right to limit the use of appropriated funds. In this instance, I disagree with the manner in which my Democratic colleagues have chosen to do so.

The Iraqi government needs to understand our patience is not unlimited. Indeed, establishing benchmarks could well have a useful purpose in the effort to have the Iraqis take more decisive steps towards autonomy. Making these benchmarks public and tying them to a specific date by which we must begin to withdraw our troops, however, is a mistake. It sends the wrong message to our troops, and it gives the enemy invaluable information.

Along with many of my colleagues, I want our troops to leave Iraq as quickly as possible. Setting a public date by which this must happen, however, will ultimately create more problems than it solves.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, the way to support the troops is to give them what they need on the battlefield, and what they need when they return home from their service to reset—or rest and fix the force for future missions.

This government must be accountable to our troops and their families, the only people actually carrying the burden for these wars today . . . along with our children, for whom we are leaving the cost.

Today's bill provides much needed money for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan . . . policy that requires accountability from the Administration . . . and funding to heal the readiness of our troops.

It is not the best bill we could get, but you never have a perfect bill.

But the predicament we are in now demands we support this bill.

We have so many emergencies on our doorstep now . . . mostly because the last Congress refused to see the negative impact operations in Iraq had on our military readiness, leaving us vulnerable as a nation . . . and leaving important national business undone.

Support for the troops is entirely about giving them what they need to fight the battles we've committed them to fight . . . and this legislation does just, with one eye on the future . . . something previous Congresses failed to do.

I wish the Congress would have put more energy into readiness oversight over the past 5 years to prevent the current situation . . . but all we can do today is go forward.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting our troops—and this funding for them.

Today's bill addresses many of these readiness concerns, with additions above the President's request to support our troops, including:

\$2 billion more to address the current readiness crisis of our stateside troops, including ensuring that they are better equipped and trained;

\$1.1 billion more for military housing allowances;

\$3 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles for troops in Iraq (\$1.2 billion above the President's request);

\$1.6 billion for body armor;

\$9.7 billion to train and equip Afghan and Iraqi security forces.

It also fully funds the BRAC accounts so communities like the Coastal Bend of Texas—and others adversely affected by base closure decisions—can plan appropriately for that eventuality.

So many Americans are coming home alive—yet traumatized in their minds or bodies—to an extent we have never seen before. The scandalous treatment of heroes at Walter Reed—and the fact that it took a newspaper story to change it—is testament to the gigantic challenges facing military and veterans' health care.

The Supplemental includes funding for new initiatives to enhance medical services for active duty forces and mobilized personnel, and their family members (appropriating \$2.1 billion more than the President requested.) These initiatives include:

\$900 million for Traumatic Brain Injury care and research and PTSD treatment and research;

\$20 million for facility improvement at Walter Reed.

The bill includes \$1.8 billion over the President's request to address the health care needs of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and the backlog in maintaining VA health care facilities, including:

\$30 million for at least one new Level I polytrauma center;

\$9.4 million in operations costs for new polytrauma residential transitional rehab programs;

\$10 million for additional transition case-workers;

\$10 million for blind rehab programs;

\$100 million for enhancements to mental health services;

\$20 million for substance abuse treatment;

\$8 million for polytrauma clinic support teams;

\$25 million for prosthetics;

\$228.9 million in additional funds to treat veterans from both wars.

This bill is an excellent starting point for this new Congress to begin the long overdue oversight of the defense department. We are far ahead of the past Congresses in giving our troops the true support they need—with appropriate funding and acknowledgment of the strain and burden of Iraq.

While the ideal situation for Congress is for the authorizing committee to determine policy, that's coming very soon. I am grateful to Chairman MURTHA for the extraordinary lengths we've gone to in this bill to protect our soldiers by certifying their readiness, protecting the military readiness of the United States.

While this bill is not perfect, it is an extraordinary first step.

As the Readiness Subcommittee Chair, let me offer the House some perspective on the current state of our readiness:

In the National Intelligence Estimate declassified on Feb. 2, the U.S. intelligence services note that—absent a remarkable reversal of fortunes in Iraq—they find that "the overall security situation will continue to deteriorate at rates comparable to the latter part of 2006." Further, the NIE determines: "even if the violence is diminished . . . Iraqi leaders will be

hard pressed to achieve sustained political reconciliation in the time frame of this estimate—which is 12–18 months.

The NIE goes on to say that if the U.S. were to leave Iraq, a greater, wider civil war would erupt, saying: “the ISF [Iraqi Security Forces] would be unlikely to survive as a non-sectarian national institution, and neighboring countries might intervene openly in the conflict.”

Now, common sense tells me that will be the case whenever we leave . . . today, mañana, this summer, next year . . . or 50 years from now. Whenever we leave Iraq, the unclassified intelligence estimate guides us on what we can expect. Our choice is in how long we remain . . . and how many more brave and patriotic volunteers—who carry the battle for this Nation—are lost in Iraq.

Today we have a chance to begin that change—in the purest way we can support the troops . . . men and women, and their families, who are alone in carrying the burden for the Iraq war.

The readiness of our next deployers—our ability to be prepared for current and future threats—is diminished due to the war in Iraq. We've worn out our force and their equipment, and that has huge implications for our ability to handle the threats to come.

The GAO has looked at this . . . and come away saying the Army itself “cannot determine the extent to which the existing inventory reflects what the Army needs” . . . and GAO notes that: “until these strategic and management challenges are addressed, the Army will face uncertain risks should new conflicts occur.”

GAO also reports that all services “have drawn heavily from their prepositioned stocks to support [the ongoing wars]” . . . and “these sustained military operations are taking a toll on the condition and readiness of military equipment and the Army and Marine Corps face a number of long-term challenges that will affect the timing and cost of equipment repair and replacement.”

GAO concludes: “the Army's decisions today have profound future implications for the entire department and potentially affect our ability to respond to a conflict.”

Last year, Congress established a Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, which has also reported back to us. They tell us point blank: “DoD's failure to appropriately consider National Guard needs and funding requirements has produced a National Guard that is not fully ready to meet current and emerging missions.”

The Commission says more pointedly: “The lack of sufficient and ready equipment is a problem common to active and reserve components.”

In particular, the equipment readiness of the Army National Guard is unacceptable and has reduced the capability of the U.S. to respond to current and additional major contingencies, foreign and domestic.”

Army Chief of Staff Schoomaker told the Commission: despite the readiness of troops overseas, “88 percent of the forces that are back here in the U.S. are very poorly equipped today in the Army National Guard.”

The Commission also noted that state governors “have become increasingly concerned about whether their National Guard forces would be available to respond to emergencies here at home.”

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I must again make the difficult decision to vote “present” on the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act.

I support the immediate withdrawal of American troops from Iraq.

I can't in good conscience vote to fund President Bush's War in Iraq. This senseless conflict has already taken the lives of more than 3300 American and tens of thousands of Iraqis. It has undermined the United States' prestige in the world, led to the outbreak of a Shiite-Sunni civil war, and cost us \$379 billion. Those funds—and the tens of billions of dollars for the war in today's legislation—would be better spent on education, healthcare and other unmet domestic priorities.

Nor can I can vote, however, against a Democratic majority intent on taking America's Iraq policy in a new direction. I applaud Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leadership for working toward the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq. My Republican colleagues voting against today's legislation are doing a disservice to both our troops and our security by supporting an open-ended commitment in Iraq. I cannot join their opposition to holding President Bush accountable.

My “present” vote is therefore an expression of strong opposition to the war's continuation for even one more day and strong support for the Democratic Congress' attempt to get an arrogant and stubborn President to change course in Iraq.

I urge the President to reconsider both his threat to veto this bill and his insistence on keeping our troops in harm's way. It is long past time for Bush to end a war he should never have begun.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to oppose this Conference Report. Our ultimate goal should be to bring our troops home in the fastest and safest way possible. Unfortunately, this Conference Report does not achieve that goal. I will continue to work with my colleagues to provide for a fully-funded withdrawal and to bring our troops home for the holidays.

Let me make myself very clear. I will not stop, I will not rest and I will not back down in my fight until every last American soldier is home safely with their families.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, by calling for a withdrawal date from Iraq, today the House is making a compromise that marks another stage in the unfortunate struggle with the President to end the war. Yet despite our hard work and the desire of the American people, this bill faces a veto from a President who is out of touch both with what the American people and the Iraqi people want: winding down the presence of American troops who are stuck in the midst of a civil war.

This is not the precise legislation I would

have written, but it is a fair compromise that reflects the mindset of Americans who voted for a new direction in Iraq. The U.S. spends \$8 billion a month on the war, and Oregon has already lost 54 brave men and women in Iraq. I have opposed the war from the start, and this bill hastens the day when we bring the tragedy of the Iraq War to a close. I urge support for it.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rescission of \$683 million of highway contract authority that is included in the Conference Report on H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act, 2007.

The Conference Report provides an additional \$683 million for the Federal Highway Administration's (“FHWA”) Emergency Relief Program. Section 4952 of the Conference Report designates this appropriation as an emergency requirement, for which no offset is required.

Despite the fact that no offset is required, the Conference Report rescinds \$683 million in unobligated balances of highway funds that have been apportioned to the States. This rescission is highly gratuitous, as it is neither required nor effective as an offset for the supplemental appropriation to the Emergency Relief Program.

Rather than offsetting the supplemental appropriation for the Emergency Relief Program, the \$683 million rescission of highway contract authority offsets other spending under the FY 2007 discretionary budget authority cap.

A similar provision was included in the Senate-passed version of the bill. The Senate amendment provided an emergency supplemental appropriation of \$389 million for the FHWA's Emergency Relief Program, and rescinded \$389 million in highway contract authority.

On April 23, 2007, I wrote to the conferees, strongly objecting to this unnecessary rescission of highway contract authority, and urged them to strike the rescission in conference. Instead, the conferees increased both the appropriation and the rescission to \$683 million.

Madam Speaker, the rescission of highway contract authority is the exclusive jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. This rescission violates clause 2 of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House.

Programmatically, I am concerned because of the effect these types of rescissions have on the Federal-aid Highway Program and, specifically, the ability to ensure that our nation's transportation system provides modal choices.

In recent years, the Appropriations Committees have increasingly relied on highway contract authority rescissions to finance non-highway spending in appropriations acts. In addition, more than a dozen states have chosen to apply such rescissions disproportionately to cut contract authority for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program, the Bridge program, and transportation enhancement funds.

I am particularly concerned with the treatment of the CMAQ program under these types of rescissions. The CMAQ program provides funding for projects and programs that reduce transportation-related emissions in areas that do not meet Clean Air Act air quality standards (i.e., nonattainment and maintenance areas).

Although CMAQ funds represent only about 4–5 percent of highway apportionments each year, CMAQ funds have accounted for about 20 percent of total highway funds rescinded in recent years. In FY 2006 states rescinded \$881 million in CMAQ funds. Almost one of every four dollars rescinded by the States in FY 2006 came from the CMAQ program.

Comparing the treatment of CMAQ to other highway programs further illustrates the disproportionate cuts of these rescissions. In FY 2006, rescissions as a percentage of the total amount made available for programs are:

CMAQ—55 percent.

Interstate Maintenance—12 percent.

National Highway System—7 percent.

The Transportation Enhancements program has also received disproportionate contract authority cuts under the rescissions. The Transportation Enhancements program provides funds for bike paths, pedestrian walkways, historic preservation, and other activities that expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience.

In FY 2006, states rescinded \$602 million in Transportation Enhancements funds, 15 percent of all rescissions in that year. Texas alone rescinded \$223 million of Transportation Enhancements funding and the Texas Department of Transportation stated that it would not fund any transportation enhancement projects in that fiscal year. Texas' actions, which are facilitated by these contract authority rescissions, are directly contrary to our federal efforts to develop a balanced, multimodal surface transportation system.

During consideration of the FY 2004 Transportation-Treasury-HUD Appropriations bill, the Committee faced a similar effort to cut transportation enhancements funding. The bill, as reported by the Appropriations Committee, included a provision that would have prohibited funds from being used for the ten percent set aside for transportation enhancements under the Surface Transportation Program. Subcommittee Chairman PETRI and I offered an amendment to strike the anti-enhancements provision from the bill and the House overwhelmingly passed the amendment by a recorded vote of 327-90. This vote illustrates the tremendous support that exists among Members of Congress for transportation enhancements, the type of program that is disproportionately harmed by highway contract authority rescissions such as the one included in the Conference Report before us today.

Therefore, for both policy and procedural reasons, I oppose the rescission of highway contract authority as a means to offset non-highway spending elsewhere in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this House will have an opportunity to reconsider this decision in a future Supplemental Appropriations bill and I would like to make clear that, with the urgent climate change issues that our nation faces, I strongly oppose efforts to allow the continued raid of CMAQ and Enhancements funding.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I extend my strong support "The Small Business and Work Opportunity Act of 2007" as included in the Conference Report to H.R. 1591. I am glad that both chambers of Congress, in passing this Conference Report, have spoken to the fact that an increase in the Federal minimum wage enjoys broad bipartisan, bicameral support, as does the approximately \$5 billion in small business tax relief also included in the agreement.

Passage of the Conference Report is an important step in achieving an important goal—ensuring an increase in the Federal minimum wage for hardworking American taxpayers. The minimum wage has not increased in more than nine years—the longest period in the history of the law. During that time, Members of Congress have received a \$31,600 pay raise. More astounding is the fact that an average CEO earns more before lunchtime in one day than a minimum wage earner earns all year.

Raising the minimum wage to from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years would benefit 13 million Americans including 7.7 million women, 3.4 million parents, and 4.7 million people of

color, and provide an additional \$4,400/year for a family of three, equaling 15 months of groceries, or over two years of health care. It is wrong to have millions of Americans working full-time and still living in poverty, and at \$5.15 an hour, a full-time minimum wage worker makes \$6,000 less than the poverty level for a family of three.

Americans overwhelmingly support increasing the Federal minimum wage. An Associated Press poll conducted in January showed almost 80% of those polled supported the \$2.10 increase. In fact, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly supports increasing the minimum wage, and passed H.R. 2 with 315 votes in favor. The President has also been supportive of the increase. I hope that combining the tax provisions of this bill with a Federal minimum wage increase will encourage the President's quick action on signing these provisions into law without further delay.

The "Small Business and Work Opportunity Act of 2007" as included in the Conference Report to H.R. 1591 expands and extends the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which serves as an incentive to encourage employers to hire individuals from targeted groups which typically experience barriers to work. The WOTC provision in the Conference Report offers additional incentives to hire disabled veterans. The Conference Report also extends and expands the increased expensing amounts for small businesses, allowing them to invest in new technology and equipment. And as a complement to the minimum wage increase, the tax provisions of the Conference Report allow restaurants to continue claiming the full tip credit despite any increase in the Federal minimum wage. Finally, the Conference Report provides a permanent waiver of the individual and corporate AMT limitations to ensure that small businesses are fully able to claim the WOTC and the credit for Social Security taxes paid with respect to cash tips.

The Conference Report contains provisions that continue the Federal government's commitment to the still-recovering areas hit by Hurricane Katrina. It would extend the placed-in-service date as applies to special credits designed to encourage development of low-income housing. The extension of this deadline helps accelerate the use of the credits by eliminating the reallocation process that otherwise would be used. The Conference Report also modifies a tax-exempt bond financing program to allow funds to be used to refinance existing mortgages on homes that were damaged by the hurricanes in the area.

Finally, the tax provisions of the "Small Business and Work Opportunity Tax Act" as included in the Conference Report to H.R. 1591 are fiscally responsible and fully offset in a revenue-neutral package. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Baucus and I have asked the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation to make available to the public a technical explanation of the bill. The technical explanation expresses the Committee's understanding and legislative intent behind this important legislation. It is available on the Joint Committee's website at www.house.gov/jct.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to medical reasons, I will be unable to vote on the conference report on H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007. However, if I had been in Washington, D.C. for the vote, I would have opposed this measure.

I believe that Congress is making a mistake with these attempts to substitute the judgment of military commanders in theater with the micromanaging of politicians in Washington.

Furthermore, I do not believe that setting artificial timetables for withdrawal of our forces from Iraq is in the best interests of our country or our military. While there have been mistakes made in Iraq, I believe that enacting this bill into law would have dangerous consequences for our Nation, Iraq, and the Middle East.

The Iraqi government continues to need our strong support as they rebuild their country, and this legislation would turn our backs on that country in its time of need.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report on H.R. 1591, the Supporting Our Troops and Veterans' Health Care Act.

This legislation will support our troops and veterans, hold the Bush Administration and Iraqi government accountable and begin withdrawing our troops from Iraq by October 2007 or sooner. It will also provide emergency funding for critical programs that have suffered from years of neglect.

This supplemental appropriations bill provides emergency funding for critical programs that have long been underfunded by the Republicans. It includes \$650 million to correct the funding shortfall in the State Children's Health Insurance program so that hundreds of thousands of children will not lose their health care. It provides \$6.9 billion for Gulf Coast hurricane relief and recovery. The bill also adds \$400 million to LIHEAP (Low Income Heating Assistance), as well as providing \$1.8 billion to remedy the unconscionable state of our military and veterans' health care systems. All of these issues are emergencies in their own right and rise to the level of inclusion in this emergency supplemental spending bill.

The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act requires the Iraqi government to meet the security, political and economic benchmarks established by the President in his address of January 10th, including improvements in the performance of the Iraqi security forces, a greater commitment by the Iraqi government to national reconciliation, and reductions in the levels of sectarian violence in Iraq.

In the bill, the President must determine that substantial progress is being made on security, political, and reconstruction benchmarks by July 2007. If the President cannot certify progress, redeployment must start by July with a goal of being completed within 180 days. If the President can certify progress by July 2007, redeployment must begin by October 1, with goal of completion within 180 days.

The bill ensures that our troops have the tools and resources they need to do the job they have been asked to do. It prohibits the deployment of troops who are not full trained, equipped and protected according to current Department of Defense standards. The President can only deploy unprepared troops if he certifies, in writing, to Congress, that deploying those troops is in the national interest. He must make similar certifications to lengthen troop deployments beyond DoD standards or to send troops back into battle who have not had enough time between deployments. The bill also provides funding so the Veterans Administration can meet the obligations of a new

generation of veterans, particularly by ensuring that they will have the medical care they need.

I have been an outspoken opponent of military action against Iraq since the day the administration started beating the war drums. My preference would have been to vote for a stronger bill with a binding date certain for ending the war. I would have preferred not to include waivers to allow the President to send less than fully equipped and rested troops into battle. I have additional concerns about the section of the bill that allows an unspecified number of U.S. troops to remain in Iraq after the March 2008 deadline to train Iraqis and fight terrorism.

However, I support this legislation in spite of these deficiencies because I believe it is an affirmative step towards our ultimate goal of ending the war. This bill is not everything that I would have liked, but it represents a critical turning point. No longer will this body uncritically hand over billions of dollars for the President to wage an endless war. Congress has a Constitutional responsibility to provide accountability—a responsibility that was shirked for the first 6 years of the Bush presidency while Republicans controlled Congress. Today, we have followed through on that critical duty. We will send a bill to the President that would definitively change our course in Iraq. Mr. Bush should make the right decision and support our plan for change that is overwhelmingly endorsed by the American people. If he follows through on his veto threat, he will be the one who has failed to provide our troops and our veterans with the resources they need. He will be the one who has rejected his own benchmarks to measure success in Iraq. He will be the one responsible for the ongoing loss of American life in Iraq.

The President and most Congressional Republicans ask that we continue to fund this war with "no strings attached." But the United States cannot afford an open-ended commitment to a war without end. It is the responsibility of this Congress to devise a means to end the U.S. combat role in Iraq so that we can reclaim our position of leadership in the world and direct our resources back towards urgent needs here at home. I believe that this bill moves us towards these goals in an effective and responsible way.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation. This supplemental appropriations conference report contains vitally important funding for critical priorities and unmet needs. For example, this bill includes \$1.7 billion more than the President requested for military health care, including funds to correct the scandalous conditions at Walter Reed and other military hospitals. It includes another \$1.7 billion for veterans' health care, \$2.5 billion for improving the readiness of our stateside troops and \$1.4 billion for military housing allowances. A nation at war simply must provide necessary funds to support our troops.

In addition, this legislation includes \$3.1 billion for military construction to implement the BRAC mandates that impact Fort Bragg in my Congressional District and military communities all across the country. It is important to note that the former Republican Congressional Majority failed to pass the military construction appropriations and imperiled these priority projects. This legislation corrects that failure.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will assert some measure of oversight and accountability to a

war policy that has been tragically mismanaged by this administration for too long. We need a new direction to rebuild our military and refocus on the true threat to America from al Qaeda and the Islamist jihadists who attacked us on 9/11. We must deploy our military might to eliminate Osama bin Laden and the true "grave and gathering threat" to America.

We must pass this legislation to send a wake-up call to the President that "Stay The Course" is no longer an option. Denial is no longer an acceptable policy. I urge my colleagues to support a new direction and vote for the conference report.

Should the President veto this bill, as he has indicated, I believe he should then meet with Congressional Leadership to work together and forge a consensus on these vitally important matters.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the conference report on the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act.

For more than 3 years, when the President came to Congress to ask for funding for Iraq, the Republican leadership's only question was, "How much?"

When the President wanted to extend the tours of duty for troops already deployed and imposed stop-loss orders, the Republican leadership's only question was, "How soon?"

And when the President decided to send more troops to Iraq in one of the failed surges, the Republicans only asked, "How many?"

Madam Speaker, today we end the era of Congressional fealty to the President's failed policies in Iraq.

Today we stop writing blank checks for this war.

We vote today for a new direction in Iraq.

My constituents know that we can't win this war militarily. They know that it's time to start bringing our troops home.

It's time for the President to stop the rhetoric and work with us to end this war.

Support the troops. Bring them home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the conference report on H.R. 1591 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on H. Res. 320.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 208, answered "present" 2, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 265]

YEAS—218

Abercrombie	Bishop (NY)	Carson	Brown (SC)	Chabot
Ackerman	Blumenauer	Castor	Brown-Waite,	Coble
Allen	Boswell	Chandler	Ginny	Cole (OK)
Altman	Boucher	Clarke	Buchanan	Conaway
Andrews	Boyd (FL)	Clay	Burgess	Crenshaw
Arcuri	Boysd (KS)	Cleaver	Burton (IN)	Culberson
Baca	Brady (PA)	Clyburn	Buyer	Davis (KY)
Baird	Braley (IA)	Cohen	Calvert	Davis, David
Baldwin	Brown, Corrine	Conyers	Camp (MI)	Davis, Lincoln
Bean	Butterfield	Cooper	Campbell (CA)	Doolittle
Becerra	Capps	Costello	Cannon	Drake
Berkley	Capuano	Courtney	Cantor	Dreier
Berman	Cardoza	Cramer	Capito	Duncan
Berry	Carnahan	Crowley	Carter	Ehlers
Bishop (GA)	Carney	Cuellar	English (PA)	Everett

Cummings	Kagen	Rangel
Davis (AL)	Kanjorski	Reyes
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Rodriguez
Davis (IL)	Kennedy	Ross
DeFazio	Kildee	Rothman
DeGette	Kilpatrick	Royal-Allard
Delahunt	Kind	Ruppersberger
DeLauro	Klein (FL)	Rush
Dicks	Langevin	Ryan (OH)
Dingell	Lantos	Salazar
Doggett	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez, Linda
Donnelly	Larson (CT)	T.
Doyle	Levin	Sanchez, Loretta
Edwards	Lipinski	Sarbanes
Ellison	Loebback	Schakowsky
Ellsworth	Lofgren, Zoe	Schiff
Emanuel	Lowey	Schwartz
Engel	Lynch	Scott (GA)
Eshoo	Mahoney (FL)	Scott (VA)
Etheridge	Maloney (NY)	Serrano
Farr	Markey	Sestak
Fattah	Matsui	Shea-Porter
Filner	McCarthy (NY)	Sherman
Frank (MA)	McCullom (MN)	Shuler
Giffords	McDermott	Sires
Gilchrest	McGovern	Skelton
Gillibrand	McIntyre	Slaughter
Gonzalez	McNerney	Smith (WA)
Gordon	Meehan	Snyder
Green, Al	Meek (FL)	Solis
Green, Gene	Meeks (NY)	Space
Grijalva	Melancon	Spratt
Gutierrez	Miller (NC)	Stupak
Hall (NY)	Miller, George	Sutton
Hare	Mitchell	Tanner
Harman	Mollohan	Tauscher
Hastings (FL)	Moore (KS)	Thompson (CA)
Herseth Sandlin	Moore (WI)	Thompson (MS)
Higgins	Moran (VA)	Tierney
Hill	Murphy (CT)	Towns
Hinchey	Murphy, Patrick	Udall (CO)
Hinojosa	Murtha	Udall (NM)
Hirono	Nadler	Van Hollen
Hodes	Napolitano	Velázquez
Holden	Neal (MA)	Visclosky
Holt	Oberstar	Walz (MN)
Honda	Obey	Wasserman
Hooley	Olver	Schultz
Hoyer	Ortiz	Watson
Inslee	Pallone	Watt
Israel	Pascrall	Waxman
Jackson (IL)	Pastor	Weiner
Jackson-Lee	Payne	Welch (VT)
(TX)	Pelosi	Wexler
Jefferson	Perlmuter	Wilson (OH)
Johnson (GA)	Peterson (MN)	Wu
Johnson, E. B.	Pomeroy	Wynn
Jones (NC)	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Jones (OH)	Rahall	

NAYS—208

Aderholt	Chabot	Goodlatte
Akin	Coble	Granger
Alexander	Cole (OK)	Graves
Bachmann	Conaway	Hall (TX)
Bachus	Crenshaw	Hastert
Baker	Culberson	Hastings (WA)
Barrett (SC)	Davis (KY)	Hayes
Barrow	Davis, David	Heller
Bartlett (MD)	Davis, Lincoln	Hensarling
Barton (TX)	Davis, Tom	Herger
Biggert	Deal (GA)	Hobson
Bilbray	Dent	Hoekstra
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hulshof
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hunter
Blackburn	Doolittle	Inglis (SC)
Blunt	Drake	Issa
Boehner	Dreier	Jindal
Bonner	Duncan	Johnson (IL)
Bono	Ehlers	Johnson, Sam
Boozman	English (PA)	Jordan
Boren	Everett	Keller
Boustany	Fallin	King (IA)
Brady (TX)	Feeley	King (NY)
Brown (SC)	Ferguson	Kirk
Brown-Waite,	Flake	Kline (MN)
Ginny	Forbes	Knollenberg
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Kucinich
Burgess	Fossella	Kuhl (NY)
Burton (IN)	Fox	LaHood
Burton	Franks (AZ)	Lamborn
Buyer	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Calvert	Garrett (NJ)	LaTourette
Camp (MI)	Gallegly	Lee
Campbell (CA)	Gerlach	Lewis (CA)
Cannon	Gillmor	Lewis (GA)
Cantor	Gingrey	Lewis (KY)
Carter	Gohmert	Linder
Castle	Goode	

LoBiondo	Peterson (PA)	Shuster	Berman	Eshoo	Latham	Reyes	Shays	Turner
Lucas	Petri	Simpson	Berry	Etheridge	LaTourette	Reynolds	Shea-Porter	Udall (CO)
Lungren, Daniel E.	Pickering	Smith (NE)	Biggert	Everett	Lee	Rodriguez	Sherman	Udall (NM)
Mack	Pitts	Smith (NJ)	Bilbray	Fallin	Levin	Rogers (AL)	Shimkus	Upton
Manzullo	Platts	Smith (TX)	Bilirakis	Farr	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (KY)	Shuler	Van Hollen
Marchant	Poe	Souder	Bishop (GA)	Fattah	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (MI)	Shuster	Velázquez
Marshall	Porter	Bishop (NY)	Bishop (UT)	Ferguson	Lewis (KY)	Rohrabacher	Simpson	Visclosky
Matheson	Price (GA)	Sullivan	Blackburn	Filner	Lipinski	Ros-Lehtinen	Sires	Walberg
McCarthy (CA)	Pryce (OH)	Tancredo	Blumenauer	Flake	LoBiondo	Roskam	Skelton	Walden (OR)
McCaul (TX)	Radanovich	Taylor	Blunt	Fortenberry	Loebsack	Ross	Slaughter	Walsh (NY)
McCotter	Ramstad	Terry	Boehner	Fossella	Lofgren, Zoe	Rothman	Smith (NE)	Wal (MN)
McCrey	Regula	Thornberry	Bonner	Fox	Lowey	Royal-Allard	Smith (NJ)	Wamp
McHenry	Rehberg	Tiahrt	Bono	Frank (MA)	Lucas	Royce	Smith (TX)	Wasserman
McHugh	Reichert	Tiberi	Boozman	Franks (AZ)	Lungren, Daniel E.	Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)	Schultz
McKeon	Renzi	Turner	Boren	Frelinghuysen	Rush	Snyder	Solis	Watson
McMorris	Reynolds	Upton	Boswell	Gallagly	Lynch	Ryan (OH)	Ryan (WI)	Watt
Rodgers	Rogers (AL)	Walberg	Boucher	Garrett (NJ)	Mack	Salazar	Space	Waxman
McNulty	Rogers (KY)	Walden (OR)	Boustany	Mahoney (FL)	Matheson	Sali	Spratt	Weiner
Mica	Rogers (MI)	Walsh (NY)	Boyd (FL)	Boustan	Maloney (NY)	Sánchez, Linda T.	Stearns	Welch (VT)
Michaud	Rohrabacher	Wamp	Boysa (KS)	Giffords	Manzullo	Stupak	Stupak	Weller
Miller (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Waters	Brady (PA)	Gilcrest	Marchant	Sanchez, Loretta	Sullivan	Wexler
Miller (MI)	Roskam	Weldon (FL)	Brady (TX)	Gillibrand	Markey	Sarbanes	Sutton	Whitfield
Miller, Gary	Royce	Weller	Braley (IA)	Gillmor	Marshall	Saxton	Tancredo	Wicker
Moran (KS)	Ryan (WI)	Whitfield	Brown (SC)	Gingrey	Matheson	Schakowsky	Tanner	Wilson (NM)
Murphy, Tim	Sali	Wicker	Brown, Corrine	Gonzalez	Matsui	Schiff	Tauscher	Wilson (OH)
Musgrave	Saxton	Wilson (NM)	Brown-Waite,	Goodlatte	McCarthy (CA)	Schmidt	Taylor	Wilson (SC)
Myrick	Schmidt	Wilson (SC)	Ginny	Gordon	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz	Terry	Wolf
Neugebauer	Sensenbrenner	Wolf	Buchanan	Granger	McCaul (TX)	Scott (GA)	Thompson (CA)	Woolsey
Nunes	Sessions	Woolsey	Burgess	Graves	McCullom (MN)	Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Wu
Paul	Shadegg	Young (AK)	Burton (IN)	Green, Al	McCotter	Sensenbrenner	Thornberry	Yarmuth
Pearce	Shays	Young (FL)	Butterfield	Green, Gene	McDermott	Serrano	Tiahrt	Young (AK)
Pence	Shimkus	Young (FL)	Buyer	Grijalva	McGovern	Sessions	Tiberi	Young (FL)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Emerson	Stark	Campbell (CA)
NOT VOTING—5		
Costa	Davis, Jo Ann	Westmoreland
Cubin	Lampson	

□ 2127

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. PAUL changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 265, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING 2007 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 320, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 320.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 266]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Andrews	Barrett (SC)	Ehlers	Kuhl (NY)	Rahall	Reynolds	Shea-Porter	Udall (CO)
Ackerman	Arcuri	Barrow	Ellison	LaHood	Ramstad	Rodriguez	Sherman	Udall (NM)
Aderholt	Baca	Bartlett (MD)	Ellsworth	Lamborn	Rangel	Rogers (AL)	Shimkus	Upton
Akin	Bachmann	Barton (TX)	Emanuel	Langevin	Regula	Rogers (KY)	Shuler	Van Hollen
Alexander	Bachus	Bean	Emerson	Lantos	Rehberg	Rohrabacher	Simpson	Velázquez
Allen	Baird	Becerra	Engel	Larsen (WA)	Reichert	Ros-Lehtinen	Sires	Visclosky
Altmine	Baldwin	Berkley	English (PA)	Larson (CT)	Renzi	Rush	Skelton	Walberg

NOT VOTING—17

Baker	Gohmert	Radanovich
Cramer	Hunter	Stark
Cubin	Lampson	Waterson
Culberson	Linder	Weldon (FL)
Davis, Jo Ann	McCrary	Westmoreland
Feeney	McCrory	Westmoreland

□ 2135

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE FAIRBANKS COMPANY

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Fairbanks Company in Rome, Georgia, which is celebrating their 120th year of manufacturing this year. In fact, the Fairbanks Company is the oldest surviving manufacturer in Floyd County, dating back to the plant’s establishment in 1987.

Well, much has changed over the past century. The company has seen its original product line of wagon and railroad track scales give way to the current line of hand-trucks, wheels, dollies and platform trucks. In fact, the company was responsible for all of the trucks that serviced the British steamship *Queen Mary* and S.S. *United States*.

But one thing has not changed over the past 120 years, Mr. Speaker, and that is the company’s commitment to quality and community. Indeed, the Fairbanks Company is a critical industry in the Rome community, and the company’s leaders and workers take exceptional pride in their product and their work.