

churches, in back yards and in living rooms across this country. Their message is clear: Mr. President, redeploy our troops out of Iraq.

Up to now, however, the President has refused to hear the calls of millions of Americans. He has refused to listen to voters last fall who demanded a different course in Iraq. He has refused to listen to the Iraq Study Group, which recommended the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq. He has refused to listen to his own generals who have implored him, in many cases, to disengage from this civil war. He has refused to listen to Congress.

The supplemental on its way to the White House echoes what many of us in Congress and military families across this great country have been saying: We need a new direction for Iraq.

We take a backseat to no one in supporting the brave men and women fighting in Iraq. That is why so many of us have pushed this administration, pushed the civilian leadership in the Pentagon and in the White House to equip our soldiers with proper body armor.

We take a backseat to no one in supporting the families of our soldiers overseas. That is why so many of us in this Chamber have pushed to help these support groups that have formed all over the country for soldiers and helping them reintegrate back into their jobs, back with their families and their society when they return home from Iraq.

But more of the same is not a plan for our troops and will not end the war in Iraq. This war has made our country and our world less safe. Congress will continue to fight for our Nation's military by working to see that they have the resources and the support they need and the leadership they deserve.

This legislation fully funds and supports our troops, while establishing conditions that will bring our troops home. It provides desperately needed funding to the Veterans' Administration, something this administration and previous Republican Congresses have woefully underfunded. It provides desperately needed funding to the Veterans' Administration to help care for the hundreds of thousands of new veterans created by this war.

If the President will not take responsibility for his failures in his conduct of this war, then Congress will. If the President will not lead our troops home, then Congress will. We owe it to our soldiers, to our sailors, to our airmen, airwomen, and to our marines, and we owe it to their families.

Instead of threatening a veto, the President should listen to the military leaders, listen to the American people, and work with Congress to change the course in Iraq.

Vetoing this legislation would deny funding our military and our veterans desperately need: \$99 billion in emergency Department of Defense spending, more than the President's budget; \$3 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Pro-

tected vehicles; \$4.8 billion in military construction for BRAC, the Base Closing Commission; and the VA, which has been underfunded by \$2 billion in the President's budget, under this bill would get \$1.7 billion immediately, more than the President's VA proposal, and will do better in the next budget. It includes \$100 million for VA mental health services.

It is absolutely outrageous that this Congress—the House and Senate—and this President send our men and women off to war, not equipping them with the right body armor, not giving them the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles we know how to build in this country, and then when they return home, not giving tens of thousands of soldiers and marines the health care they deserve.

In addition to what we do to restore that spending and take care of our veterans when they return home, this emergency legislation has over \$1 billion for Katrina relief, \$13 million for mine safety because of the increase in deaths in mines in places such as Pennsylvania and West Virginia, \$625 million for the pandemic flu response, something we absolutely need to be prepared for, and \$400 million for energy assistance for the low-income elderly.

Please, Mr. President, before you decide to veto this bill, read this legislation. Don't turn your back on millions of Americans, don't turn your back on your military advisers and the military experts, don't turn your back on our soldiers. Sign this legislation.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the issue of Iraq, to call on the President to sign the supplemental appropriations bill, the emergency bill that we will be sending him, and also to pay tribute to 43 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq from my State since January 30, 2007. This brings to 720 the number of soldiers who were either from California or based in California who have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 22 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD their names, their ages, the circumstances of their death.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SGT Alejandro Carrillo, 22, died January 30, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Carrillo was assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

CPL Richard O. Quill III, 22, died February 1, from a nonhostile cause in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Corporal Quill was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

CWO Keith Yoakum, 41, died on February 2, in Taji, Iraq, when his helicopter crashed. Chief Warrant Officer Four Yoakum was assigned to A Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Hemet, CA.

SGM Joseph J. Ellis, 40, died February 7, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Major Ellis was assigned to Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT James R. Tijerina, 26, died February 7, when the helicopter he was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Tijerina was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT Travis D. Pfister, 27, died February 7, when the helicopter he was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Pfister was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

CPT Jennifer J. Harris, 28, died February 7, when the helicopter she was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. She was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LT Jared M. Landaker, 25, died February 7, when the helicopter he was flying in crashed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. First Lieutenant Landaker was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Big Bear City, CA.

SGT Robert B. Thrasher, 23, died on February 11, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his dismounted patrol received small arms fire. Sergeant Thrasher was assigned to D Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, TX. He was from Folsom, CA.

PVT Clarence T. Spencer, 24, died February 4, in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with the enemy using small arms fire in Baqubah, Iraq. Private Spencer was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Diego, CA.

SP Dennis L. Sellen, Jr., 20, died on February 11, in Umm Qasr, Iraq, of noncombat related injuries. Specialist Sellen was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Infantry Regiment, Army National Guard, Fresno, CA. He was from Newhall, CA.

SP Ronnie G. Madore Jr., 34, died February 14, in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Specialist Madore was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Diego, CA.

SGT Carl L. Seigart, 32, died February 14, in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Sergeant Seigart was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Luis Obispo, CA.

Cpl Brian A. Escalante, 25, died February 17, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Escalante was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SGT Clinton W. Ahlquist, 23, died February 20, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Sergeant Ahlquist was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Blake H. Howey, 20, died February 18, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Howey was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA. He was from Glendora, CA.

SP Louis G. Kim, 19, died on February 20, in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when he received small arms fire. Specialist Kim was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He was from West Covina, CA.

PFC Rowan D. Walter, 25, died February 23, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq, on February 22. Private First Class Walter was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. He was from Winnetka, CA.

SGT Richard A. Soukenka, 30, died on February 27, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Sergeant Soukenka was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY. He was from Oceanside, CA.

SSG Dustin M. Gould, 28, died March 2, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Gould was assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Hospitalman Lucas W.A. Emch, 21, died March 2, when an improvised explosive device detonated in his vicinity while conducting combat operations in Al-Anbar Province, Iraq. Hospitalman Emch was a hospital corpsman assigned to 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SP Christopher D. Young, 20, died March 2, in Safwan, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Specialist Young was assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, California Army National Guard, San Pedro, CA. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

LCpl Raul S. Bravo, 21, died March 3, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Bravo was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SSG Christopher R. Webb, 28, died March 7, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. Staff Sergeant Webb was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Winchester, CA.

SP Adam J. Rosema, 27, died on March 14, in Balad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Rosema was assigned to the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Pasadena, CA.

SP Stephen M. Kowalczyk, 32, died on March 14, in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, of injuries sustained from small arms fire. Specialist Kowalczyk was assigned to C Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Diego, CA.

PFC Alberto Garcia, Jr., 23, died on March 13, in Baghdad, Iraq, when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle was followed by small

arms fire. Private First Class Garcia was assigned to C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He was from Bakersfield, CA.

LCpl Steven M. Chavez, 20, died March 14, from a nonhostile incident in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Chavez was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl Harry H. Timberman, 20, died March 17, from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Timberman was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SGT John E. Allen, 25, died on March 17, in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Sergeant Allen was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, TX. He was from Palmdale, CA.

SSG Darrell R. Griffin Jr., 36, died on March 21, in Balad, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his unit came in contact with small arms fire during combat operations. Staff Sergeant Griffin was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Alhambra, CA.

LCpl Daniel R. Olsen, 20, died April 2, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Olsen was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SP Curtis R. Spivey, 25, died on April 2, in San Diego, CA, of injuries sustained on September 16, 2006, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Specialist Spivey was assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Chula Vista, CA.

PCF Gabriel J. Figueroa, 20, died on April 3, in Baghdad, Iraq, when he received small arms fire while on dismounted patrol. Private First Class Figueroa was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Baldwin Park, CA.

PCF James J. Coon, 22, died April 4, in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Private First Class Coon was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Walnut Creek, CA.

PCF Walter Freeman Jr., 20, died April 4, in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. Private First Class Freeman was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. He was from Lancaster, CA.

SSG Jesse L. Williams, 25, died April 8 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from small arms fire while conducting combat operations in Baqubah, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Williams was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Santa Rosa, CA.

LCpl Daniel J. Santee, 21, died April 14, from a nonhostile vehicle accident in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Santee was assigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC. He was from Mission Viejo, CA.

1LT Shaun M. Blue, 25, died April 16, while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. First Lieutenant Blue was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

LCpl Jesse D. Delatorre, 29, died April 16, from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Delatorre was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

PFC Steven J. Walberg, 18, died April 15, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire. Private First Class Walberg was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS. He was from Paradise, CA.

SGT Mario K. De Leon, 26, died April 16, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire. Sergeant De Leon was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He was from San Francisco, CA.

PFC Jason M. Morales, 20, died April 18, in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire. Private First Class Morales was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS. He was from La Puente, CA.

CPL Michael M. Rojas, 21, died on April 18, in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle. Corporal Rojas was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Fresno, CA.

I would also like to pay tribute to the two soldiers from California who have died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since January 30.

PFC Kristofer D. S. Thomas, 18, died February 18, in southeastern Afghanistan when the Chinook helicopter he was in crashed. Private First Class Thomas was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA. He was from Roseville, CA.

SP Agustín Gutierrez, 19, died on March 29, in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his military vehicle overturned. Specialist Gutierrez was assigned to the 782nd Brigade Support Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from San Jacinto, CA.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, if you come to my office—I think you have had the opportunity to do so—you will see in front of the entrance at 112 Hart four huge placards with very small print paying tribute to those from California who have died in this conflict. The sadness of all sadness is that we keep having to send these posters back to be printed in yet smaller print because we keep having to add so many to it, and we are actually running out of space. We will have to get special permission from the Architect of the Capitol to place yet another placard in front of our door.

But we will do it regardless because we must put names on this conflict, ages on this conflict, we must pay tribute to those who are being sacrificed, in my opinion, by a President who simply will not change course, for whatever reason, from a failed course.

Anyone who reads the Constitution—I highly recommend it; it is a very

readable document; it is a very concise document—will see that when it comes to war, there is a shared responsibility. As a matter of fact, if you read the Constitution, you will see Congress mentioned far more times, far many more times than the President. The President cannot act as if he is king. We already had a king, King George. We have a democracy. This is what the President says our young people are dying for in Iraq. Yet at home he acts as if he is a one-man show when it comes to Iraq.

Mr. President, the American people said no to that this past election. Yet it continues as if there is no Congress, there has been no election, there has been no change of heart by the American people, when, in fact, there has been an enormous change of heart by the American people. That change of heart is reflected in the election, in the composition of this Senate, and you, Mr. President, actually are part of that change, that message that we wanted a change in the leadership. With all of this, it just goes on and on.

Today is the fourth anniversary of the President's speech that major combat operations are over. Four years ago he said that, in a military outfit. Yet, still, in today's paper: April toll is highest of 2007 for U.S. troops. Over 100 killed this month. The Iraqi deaths are far higher.

Three years ago the President said: Major combat operations are over. Today we read: The deadliest month in 2007. As a matter of fact, in the past 3 days—as of yesterday, 3 days prior to that, we had 14 dead. That is about one for almost every person in the President's Cabinet.

What would it be like if 14 people sat around the President's Cabinet table, and every one of them had lost a child? How long would this war last? How long would this war last? But who is paying the price? Who is paying the price? Our military families. They want a change. We want success.

How do you get success? It is by changing course. It is what we sent the President. If you read what we sent the President in this emergency bill—I say to the Presiding Officer, I know you are so aware of it—it is a change in course. We are going to shift, as the Iraq Study Group suggested, from a combat mission to a support mission. We are going to gradually redeploy our troops out of there—not overnight—but sensibly. We are going to leave forces in Iraq to target al-Qaida, which never was in Iraq before this war, and now they are all over it because they want to go after our troops. So we are going to leave troops there in Iraq. That is what the Feingold-Reid-Boxer bill does as well. It says we have to have a mission there to go after al-Qaida when this war is over. We say training the troops is OK. Going after al-Qaida is what we want to do, and we want to have enough troops there for force protection.

So anyone reading this—when the President says it is irresponsible,

maybe he has not read it. There is time, Mr. President. You have not gotten this bill yet. Read it again. Look at it. We are changing course in a responsible way, the way the Iraqi Study Group that you praised says we should do. That was a bipartisan group. We all remember it: Secretary Baker, Lee Hamilton, and the others.

Do you know why we have to change course? Because the mission you have given our military cannot be accomplished militarily. The mission now is—and since the mission has changed so many times, we have to go back. The mission now is: Bring stability and democracy to Iraq, and Iraq at peace within its own borders and with its neighbors, and an ally in the war against terror. That is the President's goal. That is a political and diplomatic goal, I say to you, Mr. President. It is not a military goal. The military cannot do that. The military has done everything asked of it, and more.

The first mission: Find the weapons of mass destruction. They went into every nook and cranny of Iraq. There were none. So that mission: done, accomplished.

The President said: Go get Saddam. They did it. That mission: accomplished. That tyrant is gone forever.

He said: Go get his sons because maybe they will get the idea we mean business. The military got his sons, put the pictures on television of their dead bodies. It did not do the job.

What was the next mission? We have to hold elections. The military did a magnificent job. Three elections were actually held, and they have a government. Now, that Government will go on vacation, as I understand it, for 2 months while our troops are dying.

The fact is, the military has done every single thing asked of it. We are now at a point where the only way to win this war is to win it diplomatically, politically. Yet, this President will not change course. His solution is, more military action, a surge, which was supposed to last a few weeks—now we are being told a few months—and our military is paying the price. They are paying the price.

I want to read from this news article today: "April Toll Is Highest of '07 for U.S. Troops":

On Monday, U.S. troops at Camp Victory, a sprawling base near Baghdad International Airport, reflected on April's deadly toll on their comrades. . . .

"It makes me feel depressed to be in Iraq right now," said [Private Richard] Gonzalez, [22 years old,] who is on his second deployment. "It's a whole lot different than last time."

Now, he said, soldiers at the base must carry weapons. Return addresses on letters from home must be ripped off and burned, so as not to fall into the wrong hands. On his first deployment, eight months passed before his Baghdad base was hit by mortar fire.

This time, incoming fire every single day—4 years after "mission accomplished."

"There's a whole lot more activity," said Spec. Krystal Fowler, 21, of Hamp-

ton, Va. She said it "kind of bothers" her to know other troops are taking hits in the field and she can't help.

SPC Natisha Jetter said:

Our fellow soldiers are out there dying, and we're here. . . .

Gonzales said the deaths made him realize that "there's a war going on out there."

Fowler sighed. It's a war between Iraqis, she said.

"We are just interfering, and letting our soldiers die."

"I'd rather be out there helping people survive," Fowler said. . . .

There was a pause, as the soldiers mulled that.

"It's just terrifying, because you can drive the same road for eight months, and then one day it's over," Gonzalez said.

"Over," Fowler echoed.

I ask, rhetorically, in light of what our troops are feeling, saying—going there for a second deployment, third deployment and more, and the increased number of deaths of our troops, and the horrific things that are happening in Iraq, detailed in the Red Cross report, which I ask unanimous consent to be printed in the RECORD, Mr. President, this International Red Cross report.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CIVILIANS WITHOUT PROTECTION

THE EVER-WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN IRAQ

The humanitarian situation is steadily worsening and it is affecting, directly or indirectly, all Iraqis.

Protecting Iraq's civilian population must be a priority, and the ICRC urgently calls for better respect for international humanitarian law. It appeals to all those with military or political influence on the ground to act now to ensure that the lives of ordinary Iraqis are spared and protected. This is an obligation under international humanitarian law for both States and non-State actors.

The ICRC aims to ensure that Iraqis receive the aid they need most. It cooperates closely with the Iraqi Red Crescent. However, humanitarian aid is clearly not enough when it comes to addressing the immense needs of Iraqis in the present disastrous security situation.

A CONFLICT THAT SPARES NO ONE

The conflict in Iraq is inflicting immense suffering on the entire population. Civilians bear the brunt of the relentless violence and the extremely poor security conditions that are disrupting the lives and livelihoods of millions. Every day, dozens of people are killed and many more wounded. The plight of Iraqi civilians is a daily reminder of the fact that there has long been a failure to respect their lives and dignity.

Shootings, bombings, abductions, murders, military operations and other forms of violence are forcing thousands of people to flee their homes and seek safety elsewhere in Iraq or in neighbouring countries. The hundreds of thousands of displaced people scattered across Iraq find it particularly difficult to cope with the ongoing crisis, as do the families who generously agree to host them.

Health-care facilities are stretched to the limit as they struggle to cope with mass casualties day-in, day-out. Many sick and injured people do not go to hospital because it's too dangerous, and the patients and medical staff in those facilities are frequently threatened or targeted.

Food shortages have been reported in several areas. According to the Iraqi Red Crescent, malnutrition has increased over the

past year. The vastly inadequate water, sewage and electricity infrastructure is presenting a risk to public health.

Unemployment and poverty levels are rising and many families continue to rely on government food distributions to cover their immediate needs. According to government sources, an estimated one third of the population lives in poverty, while over five percent live in extreme poverty.

Much of Iraq's vital infrastructure is in a poor state of repair owing to lack of maintenance and because security constraints have impeded repair work on electrical power grids, water and sanitation systems, medical facilities and other essential facilities.

Power shortages are growing worse throughout the country, including northern areas, owing largely to the failure to carry out maintenance and to increase generation capacity. Fuel shortages affecting power stations and acts of sabotage are further aggravating the crisis. As a result, water-treatment plants, primary health-care centres and hospitals rely mainly on back-up generators, which often break down owing to excess usage or fall victim to the chronic fuel shortages.

The destructive legacy of previous conflicts, from 1980 onwards, and the years of international sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 are further exacerbating the current crisis.

THE ICRC IN IRAQ

Despite the difficult security situation, the ICRC spares no effort to help the families most in need. It works closely with the Iraqi Red Crescent, which regularly distributes relief provided by the ICRC and collects and delivers Red Cross messages (brief personal messages to relatives made otherwise unreachable by armed conflict).

The ICRC—a strictly humanitarian organization committed to the principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality—strives to monitor and promote respect for international humanitarian law and other legal standards applicable to the current situation in Iraq.

SLIDING TO DISASTER

Since the bombing of the sacred Shiite shrine of Samarra in February 2006 and the subsequent increase in violence, the problem of displacement in Iraq has become particularly acute. Thousands of Iraqis continue to be forced out of their homes owing to military operations, general poor security and the destruction of houses. And the outlook is bleak, particularly in Baghdad and other areas with mixed communities, where the situation is likely to worsen.

Most displaced people have taken refuge with host families, who often struggle to cope with the additional burden on their limited resources. Some have found refuge in camps, public buildings and abandoned military barracks. Where displaced people decide to seek refuge often depends on the presence of relatives or friends and, because of the prevailing sectarian violence, on the religious or ethnic make-up of the host community.

Frequently, both the displaced families and the communities hosting them are badly in need of shelter materials, access to clean water, adequate sanitation, food and other essentials.

The displacement of hundreds of thousands of people places an additional burden on Iraq's basic infrastructure, which is barely sufficient to serve the resident population.

Humanitarian aid is needed by a wide range of particularly vulnerable civilians, including elderly and disabled people and female-headed households.

MEDICAL CARE UNDER THREAT

Medical professionals are fleeing the country in large numbers following the murder or

abduction of colleagues. Hospitals and other key services are desperately short of qualified staff. According to the Iraqi Ministry of Health, more than half the doctors have left the country.

The mass influx of casualties to hospitals following the daily attacks against civilians and other violent incidents is putting the health-care system under tremendous additional strain. Staff and resources are often stretched to the limit.

The failure to observe the special status of medical staff and facilities is a major concern. A hospital director in Baghdad told the ICRC that poor security conditions were preventing staff from providing medical services. And there have been frequent reports of armed men storming hospitals and forcing doctors to give their companions priority treatment at the expense of others in more urgent need.

Road-blocks and check-points sometimes prevent doctors and patients from reaching health-care centres in time. The lack of security also hampers the distribution of medical supplies in many parts of Iraq.

DIRTY AND SCARCE—THE WATER CRISIS

Both the quantity and quality of drinking water in Iraq remain insufficient despite limited improvements in some areas, mainly in the south. Water is often contaminated owing to the poor repair of sewage and water-supply networks and the discharge of untreated sewage into rivers, which are the main source of drinking water. Electricity and fuel shortages and the poor maintenance of infrastructure mean that there is no regular and reliable supply of clean water and that sewage is often not properly disposed of.

TORN APART—THE FATE OF SEPARATED FAMILIES

Tens of thousands of people are currently being detained by the Iraqi authorities and the multinational forces in Iraq. Many families remain without news of relatives who went missing during past conflicts or the current hostilities.

Visiting people detained in connection with the armed conflict in Iraq remains a humanitarian priority for the ICRC. Persons held by the multinational forces or the Kurdish regional government are regularly visited to assess their conditions of detention and treatment.

THE ICRC IN 2006

Over 227,000 people, mostly members of displaced families, received food aid in various parts of Iraq. Over 161,000 people received essential household items.

Some 83,000 people, including members of displaced families, had their water supply ensured through emergency ICRC water and sanitation projects.

In all, over four million people benefited from water and sanitation projects.

Twenty major hospitals in Hillah, Baghdad, Diwaniya, Karbala, Najaf and Tal Afar received medical and surgical supplies for the treatment of wounded patients.

Eight limb-fitting centres in Baghdad, Hillah, Najaf and Basra were supported by the ICRC, as was an Iraqi Red Crescent centre in Mosul. This was in addition to the Arbil centre, which is run entirely by the ICRC. In all, these centres helped nearly 21,000 patients, who received 7,300 artificial and some 460 pairs of crutches.

Twelve hospital emergency wards received new equipment.

Ten hospitals, with a combined capacity to treat some 5,000 inpatients, had their water and sanitation systems repaired.

Sixty-seven primary health-care centres in Anbar, Babel, Baghdad, Diwaniya, Karbala, Salah Al Deen and Wasit governorates had their sanitation facilities repaired or up-

graded. They treat an average of over 9,000 patients per day.

More than 32,000 detainees were visited, almost 9,000 of them individually, during 109 visits to 28 places of detention.

Nearly 6,400 detainees held in Camp Bucca and in the Shaiba facility benefited from the ICRC family-visit programme.

Nearly 37,000 Red Cross messages were delivered and over 30,500 collected by the ICRC in conjunction with the Iraqi Red Crescent.

Mrs. BOXER. This report is called "Civilians Without Protection." I will go into it in a minute. But in light of everything that is happening, how on Earth could the President sit in the Oval Office and say: "I am vetoing this bill that is coming to me, and I want to just continue what I am doing"? A military solution is what he is doing, and he is going to continue it.

In light of everything that has gone on, doesn't this President understand it is time for a change? Doesn't he listen to the voters? Doesn't he read these articles? "Send me the bill. I am going to veto it"—very macho like. I do not think it is macho like. I think it is wrong. I do not think it is brave to continue a policy that is failing. I do not think it is courageous not to admit it is time for a change. I do not think it shows strength. I think it is stubborn. I think it is wrong. And, worst of all, our troops are paying the price for this stubbornness. This is not the same as being stubborn in an argument we might have about some small matter. Oh, I think this book is better than this book, and I think this singer is better than this one. This is involving the lives of our soldiers.

Now, this "Civilians Without Protection" report is very tough to read, by the International Red Cross. Let me share some of it with you: the pictures, the headlines, the words.

One section is called "A conflict that spares no one."

In some regions, particularly Baghdad and area, families are often too afraid to leave their homes to go to work or to shop and too afraid to send their children to school because of random violence and the threat of kidnapping for ransom.

This one is very tough to take—very tough to take. It is written by a young humanitarian worker from Baghdad. It is in the Red Cross report.

Once I was called to an explosion site. There I saw a four-year-old boy sitting beside his mother's body, which had been decapitated by the explosion. He was talking to her, asking her what had happened. He had been taken out shopping by his mom.

How do you sit back and say "status quo"? How? How? Why not welcome a change? Why not welcome the Iraq Study Group? Why not welcome the work that has been done here in 50, 60 different hearings which we have held?

Another part: "Sliding to disaster" in the International Red Cross report. Another part: "Medical care under threat." Another part: "Dirty and scarce—the water crisis." Another part: "Torn apart—The fate of separated families." It goes into the agony. I ask us all to imagine what it would

be like to worry about our kids for even 15 minutes, let alone days and months.

This Red Cross report is printed in the RECORD.

Mr. President, also, I ask unanimous consent that the entire article I referred to from the newspaper be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post Foreign Service, Tuesday, May 1, 2007]

APRIL TOLL IS HIGHEST OF '07 FOR U.S. TROOPS

(By Sudarsan Raghavan and Karin Brulliard)

BAGHDAD, April 30.—The deaths of more than 100 American troops in April made it the deadliest month so far this year for U.S. forces in Iraq, underscoring the growing exposure of Americans as thousands of reinforcements arrive for an 11-week-old offensive to tame sectarian violence.

More than 60 Iraqis also were killed or found dead across Iraq on Monday. Casualties among Iraqi civilians and security forces have outstripped those of Americans throughout the war. In March, a total of 2,762 Iraqi civilians and policemen were killed, down 4 percent from the previous month, when 2,864 were killed. Iraq's government has yet to release any monthly totals for April.

Attacks killed a total of nine U.S. troops over the weekend, including five whose deaths were announced Monday. The weekend's fatalities brought the toll for the month to 104 Americans killed, in the sixth most-lethal month for American forces since the U.S.-led invasion four years ago.

Under the new counterinsurgency plan, many U.S. forces have left large, more secure bases to live in small combat outposts and to patrol hostile neighborhoods where the risk of insurgents targeting them has multiplied.

Highlighting the vulnerability of American forces, a series of explosions Monday night rocked Baghdad's Green Zone, the most heavily secured enclave in the capital and home to thousands of U.S. troops, Western diplomats and Iraqi government officials.

"There is a duck-and-cover going on right now," said Lt. Col. Christopher C. Garver, a U.S. military spokesman, before quickly getting off the phone. Later, Garver confirmed there had been an assault on the Green Zone, but it was unclear what had happened. Local Iraqi television stations reported 10 explosions inside the zone. There were no immediate reports of casualties, Garver said.

In eastern Baghdad on Sunday, a roadside bomb killed three U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter who were on patrol, the military said. Attackers shot dead another soldier in the same section of the capital on Saturday. Meanwhile, a Marine was killed in the Sunni insurgent bastion of Anbar province, west of Baghdad. On Saturday, the military reported four U.S. soldiers had been killed on that day.

Before the deaths announced Monday, 99 U.S. soldiers had been killed during April, according to iCasualties.org, an independent Web site that monitors military deaths. Nearly half have died in and around Baghdad, with the next greatest number of deaths occurring in Anbar and Diyala provinces. In December, 112 U.S. soldiers were killed.

With 11 combat deaths, April also was the deadliest month for British troops in Iraq since the beginning of the war, when 27 soldiers were killed in March 2003. This month's British casualties highlighted the growing tensions in southern Iraq as Shiite groups

clash for power and Britain prepares to draw down its forces.

The deaths came as the largest bloc of Sunnis in Iraq's parliament, the Iraqi Accordance Front, threatened to pull out its ministers from the cabinet, saying that it "had lost hope" in having Sunni concerns addressed by the Shiite-led government. The threat prompted President Bush to phone one of Iraq's two vice presidents, Tariq al-Hashimi, a Sunni, in an attempt to defuse the potential political crisis. Hashimi's office said in a statement. A Sunni withdrawal could seriously hamper efforts at national reconciliation and further weaken the government. Only two weeks ago, six cabinet ministers loyal to Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr resigned from the cabinet.

In the province of Diyala, where scores of fighters have fled to escape the Baghdad security offensive, a car bomb exploded near a funeral tent in the town of Khalis, killing 22 and wounding 35, said Lt. Mohammed Hakman of the Diyala police Joint Coordination Center. Police said they expected the toll to rise.

The strike came four days after a suicide attacker detonated a car packed with bombs at a checkpoint in the town, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing 10 Iraqi soldiers.

Near the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Ramadi, a car bomb exploded at a police checkpoint, killing four policemen and injuring six others, police said. In another attack near Ramadi, a truck exploded near a restaurant, killing four civilians, police said.

In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded in the al-Jihad neighborhood, killing four and wounding another seven, all civilians, while another car bomb detonated in a local market, killing five and wounding nine civilians. In the Shaab neighborhood, mortar shells rained down on a house, killing three and injuring eight, police said.

Meanwhile, police found 13 corpses—all blindfolded, handcuffed and shot in the head—in different parts of the capital.

On Monday, U.S. troops at Camp Victory, a sprawling base near Baghdad International Airport, reflected on April's deadly toll on their comrades.

Sitting at a picnic table outside a recreation center, four soldiers smoked Marlboros under a starry sky. Part of the Headquarters Headquarters Support Company for the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., they had arrived last month. They were on the base, just "sweeping parking lots and waiting for a sandstorm," as Pfc. Richard Gonzalez, 22, put it.

Still, they said, frequent news of troop deaths made even their mission more frightening.

"It makes me feel depressed to be in Iraq right now," said Gonzalez, who is on his second deployment. "It's a whole lot different than last time."

Now, he said, soldiers at the base must carry weapons. Return addresses on letters from home must be ripped off and burned, so as not to fall into the wrong hands. On his first deployment, eight months passed before his Baghdad base was hit by mortar fire. This time, he said, it seems the Camp Victory intercom announces incoming fire every day.

"There's a whole lot more activity," said Spec. Krystal Fowler, 21, of Hampton, Va. She said it "kind of bothers" her to know other troops are taking hits in the field and she can't help.

Spec. Natisha Jetter, 23, of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, in the Virgin Islands, agreed.

"Our fellow soldiers are out there dying, and we're here not doing our job," Jetter said.

Gonzalez said the deaths made him realize that "there's a war going on out there."

Fowler sighed. It's a war between Iraqis, she said.

"We are just interfering, and letting our soldiers die."

"I'd rather be out there helping people survive," Fowler said. "The more of us that are out there, the more chances they have to survive."

There was a pause, as the soldiers mulled that.

"It's just terrifying, because you can drive the same road for eight months, and then one day it's over," Gonzalez said.

"Over," Fowler echoed.

Mrs. BOXER. This President's policies left unchecked have been a disaster. And what does he want? More of the same. He criticizes us for coming up with a new policy, and this new policy will work because it combines a gradual redeployment of troops, a focus on getting al-Qaida, a focus on training the Iraqis, with a focus on diplomacy and a political solution, which is exactly what everyone says we need.

General Petraeus says we must have a political and diplomatic solution. Well, everyone has heard it, but obviously not this President. Mr. President, sign this bill. Have a change of heart. Read the paper today. Read the quote from this humanitarian worker. Read what our troops are saying. Read about it. Reconsider.

Also, Mr. President, take a look at what we have done for our people here at home in this bill. You deride it. You make it sound as though we are spending on things we should not. Why shouldn't we fix Walter Reed? Why shouldn't we fix the Veterans' Administration so when our soldiers come home they get mental health care? Why shouldn't we invest in better technologies to protect our troops from these horrific land mines, car bombs, et cetera? That is what is in this bill.

Why shouldn't we help our farmers who lost their money because of horrific droughts, horrific frosts? That is what these bills are for, emergencies. On Sunday, we all learned about the horror that happened in Oakland, with a gasoline tanker overturning on a major interstate connector. It collapsed onto the freeway below. Miracle of miracles: the middle of the night, in the early morning, 3:40 or so a.m. No one killed. Thank you, God. And we pray that the driver survives.

But here is the point: There is money in this bill for emergencies such as that. There is a backlog of these emergency fixes that have had to be done to our freeways. So, Mr. President, there is real beef in this bill for our people, for our veterans, for our fighting men and women. And, most important, we change course. We change course. We don't have a hard-and-fast date to get out, as others have said. We have a goal to get out: in April of 2008.

When I went to Iraq 2 years ago, I met with General Petraeus at length. I watched how he was training the Iraqi soldiers. He was very complimentary. He said they are doing great. I said to him: If they are doing so great, why can't we go home? It is their country.

They have to defend their own country. He said: Well, pretty soon they will be able to do it. Clearly, they are not doing it. Clearly, the Iraqis are turning on each other. What is our military to do?

As Thomas Friedman said,

Our troops are protecting everyone, and yet they are everyone's target.

They are protecting the Sunnis from the Shia. When they are protecting the Shia, the Sunnis get them. That is an irresponsible policy. So what we need to do is get through to this President. I ask all the American people to keep on speaking out, to ask the President in these next couple of hours to sign this bill. We can finally change course. We have been in Iraq longer than World War II. We can't afford this conflict, and that doesn't mean you cut and run. Anyone who says that is what we are saying is wrong. Read the bill. We redeploy out of Iraq, we stay in the region to go after al-Qaida and to train the Iraqi forces.

We can't afford this anymore. Mr. President: Sign the bill.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

POLICE CHASES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to talk about a decision by the Supreme Court yesterday that greatly troubles me. Some many years ago, I received a call at 10:31 in the evening that my mother had been killed in a car accident. She was killed in a car accident as a result of a high-speed police chase. My mother was driving home from visiting a friend in the hospital, going 25 or 30 miles an hour on a street in Bismarck, ND. A drunk, on Main Street in Bismarck, ND, was spinning his wheels on his pickup truck, and the police then decided to apprehend him. The drunk driver took flight. Witnesses said he was going 80 to 100 miles an hour on the city streets. Regrettably, that ended in a tragic crash that took the life of my mother.

I have spent many years here in Congress talking about this issue of police chases and training for law enforcement officials, about guidelines—when to chase, when not to chase. I have been joined by a good number of people around this country who have lost loved ones, innocent loved ones who were killed as a result of high-speed police chases. One who came to mind was a former member of law enforcement whose family member was killed when someone with a taillight that was out was to be apprehended by the police, and he took flight and the police

chased at very high speeds. The family member of this law enforcement official was killed as a result.

In the middle of working on this, over the years, a county sheriff called me one day. He heard me speak about it. He said: You know, just last week we had a man who was a drunk driver in our community who had two little children in the backseat. The sheriff's department attempted to apprehend that driver, and he took off at a high rate of speed. The sheriff's office decided to discontinue the chase immediately. They got a license number. They discontinued the chase. Three hours later, they arrested the man.

He said: It could have turned out differently. We could have chased that man at 80 to 100 miles an hour, and the end of that chase could have resulted in the death of those children in the backseat of that car. But we didn't do that because we had guidelines and we had training.

The Supreme Court yesterday issued a ruling, regrettably, that I believe will result in more deaths in this country, deaths of innocent bystanders, as a result of high-speed police chases. I think the ruling is a horrible ruling.

Incidentally, the Supreme Court, apparently for the first time in history, put a video on their Web site so people could see the chase which was the subject of the decision in the case they were considering. Let me suggest to the Supreme Court that perhaps they could put some other videos on their Web site. I know high-speed police chases have become a form of television entertainment all too often, but they all too often end in disaster and end with innocent people losing their lives. There are other videos they could perhaps put on their Web site, if the Supreme Court were interested. Among those videos might be the resulting crashes of high-speed police chases in the middle of our cities, at 80 and 100 miles an hour, where innocent bystanders ended up losing their lives.

I understand why the police chase when there is a felony, a bank robbery, a serious crime. I understand that. What I don't understand is this: why chases ensue in these communities because of a broken taillight or a person going 5 miles an hour over the speed limit and a chase ensues. Yes, the responsibility is in the person fleeing the police. Yes, that is the case, I understand that. But that does not give rise, in my judgment, to reason to endanger people on the city streets with chases at 60, 80, or 100 miles an hour. That is not justified.

Law enforcement needs guidelines. They need training to understand what the consequences are—when to chase, when not to chase. Regrettably, I believe the Supreme Court ruling yesterday will result in more high-speed police chases and more deaths of innocent Americans. That is a profound disappointment, not just to me but to many others in this country who have seen the results of these high-speed chases.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG USER FEE AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1082, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1082) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 12:30 is to be evenly divided between the majority leader and Republican leader and to be used for debate only.

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BOXER from California be recognized for 15 minutes, obviously as the next Democratic speaker following my presentation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to talk about the underlying bill that is being considered, a piece of legislation to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions and so on. It may be that there will be an agreement by which I and some others who will offer legislation or an amendment to deal with the issue of prescription drug prices will do that at another time and not on this bill. If that is the case, I am fine with that. I understand there are discussions underway now. I would be perfectly amenable to not offering an amendment on this legislation and instead having an opportunity to offer it at a different time. That amendment is about the reimportation of prescription drugs.

Let me talk just a little about this issue. This is an issue which is getting a gray beard these days because it has been around so long with so many promises to be able to take it up here in the Congress. We have 33 cosponsors on a piece of legislation that would try to break the back of the pricing monopoly that exists with the pharmaceutical industry for prescription drugs in our country. The fact is, the American consumers are charged the highest prices for prescription drugs anywhere in the world. The highest prices for prescription drugs are charged to the American consumer. It is not right. It is not fair. It ought to stop. We do have price controls on prescription drugs in our country; they are just controlled by the pharmaceutical industry. That is why we have the highest prices in the world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to show a couple of bottles of medicine.