

I've been to Iraq; I've read the reports, I've been briefed, and over the last four years, I've heard General Petraeus' four predecessors sit in front of the Armed Services Committee and testify that we've turned a corner in Iraq; that the killing and the violence are beginning to decrease, that the Shi'a and Sunnis in the government are starting to work together. So, unfortunately, I'm a little skeptical when I hear the same claims this year.

President Bush's stated objective when he ordered 30-thousand more American troops into combat was to buy time for Iraqi leaders to build a unity government that could defend its own country. But, by all credible accounts, Iraqi leaders have demonstrated very little interest in any kind of unity.

American soldiers are being killed and injured. You and I are spending \$3 billion dollars a week to help people who don't want our help. What we're doing in Iraq is not achieving the objective. Very clearly, it's way past time to do something different.