There is no doubt we face extremely difficult challenges in Iraq. We have not made enough progress. Citizens of Iraq must be willing to fight for their own freedom. The President recognizes this, and his new plan is the result of increased commitments from the Iraqi Prime Minister. The President has developed a new plan with new leadership. We should not jerk the rug out from under those we have put in charge in Iraq.

I ask my colleagues to reject this bill and let us craft a clean funding bill that will meet the priorities and needs of our men and women in Iraq.

Mr. President, that concludes my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I want to follow on the remarks of my dear friend from Colorado related to the current situation in Iraq. It appears some movement has been made on the war supplemental. Unfortunately, it is a flawed piece of legislation, one the crafters of it well know will be vetoed by the President. It will be vetoed for good reasons—because it contains completely unacceptable language being pointed at the

It is impossible for us to micromanage what is happening in the field. It is a bad idea for politicians in Washington to tell generals when and how they move forces in a battle. It is a bad idea for us to slow-bleed our military as they face an unrelenting enemy. It is a bad idea for us to simply not have the wherewithal to stick with the fight at a time when it is difficult. The President this week again reiterated his commitment that he would veto a bill that had artificial timetables for withdrawal and that would empower the enemy. It gives the enemy hope and an opportunity to wait and to continue to fight against us. Their lives in the last 24 hours alone. This is a difficult time. It is not a pleasant time. It is not an easy assignment. So for us to simply tell our troops in the field they have been defeated when in fact they have not, is not a good idea. I believe it is terribly important that we attempt somehow in the midst of this rancor and debate that is so classic of modern day Washington that we find it within ourselves to look beyond the current moment of politics, beyond the political advantage that might be gained at any one moment or another, and seek within the depths of our souls the opportunity for us to begin to work together to try to find a solution to this very difficult problem.

It is a sure thing that we, in fact, have a problem on our hands, that Iraq is a difficult situation. There is no question that they must do—the Iraqis themselves—the hard work of peace. However, as we do that, we need to also find it within ourselves to find a way of shaping a political consensus, for us to find a way to solve the problems we face in this war that is certainly a difficult one. We see the problems right now in a way that is certainly a difficult one. We all share the same goal: that the interests of America are furthered if we can stabilize Iraq. How do we get there? There has been so much distrust and suspicion that has been bred because of all the inconsistencies and lack of information and misinformation and massaged information. But that is what is now; now is now. What do we do? Thus far, it looks as though the White House and the leadership in Congress can't work together. There is too much distrust.

I have said before and I will say again, thank goodness the Secretary of State is out on a new diplomatic initiative. It is not catty to say it is about time, because there certainly have been those forces within the administration that have wanted this much more in the past, but I think the Secretary of State is making a very valiant effort now, because you are not going to solve this problem unless you can get all the neighbors in the region involved to make a political solution stick.

Is a political solution viable? This Senator cannot say at this point that it is a viable prospect because of the sectarian hatred we have seen play out over these last several months. But this hasn't just been going on for months; this has been going on for 1,327 years, ever since the Battle of Karbala. I say to my colleague, who is my dear friend from Colorado, that we work very well all the time, that a lot less rhetoric coming from both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue would help this

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

BIPARTISANSHIP STARTS AT THE TOP

Mr. Nelson of Florida. Mr. President, I say to my good personal friend and colleague from Florida, if we want to solve this and other problems, we have to have some genuine bipartisanship, and that bipartisanship has to start at the top. There has to be an atmosphere of mutual respect and willingness to work together, and it has to start in the White House.

I have shared these comments publicly and privately. Whenever you face something as contentious as the matters we face—matters of war and peace, the making of Medicare financially solvency, and we face a very difficult one. We see the problems right now in a way that is certainly a difficult one. We all share the same goal: that the interests of America are furthered if we can stabilize Iraq. How do we get there? There has been so much distrust and suspicion that has been bred because of all the inconsistencies and lack of information and misinformation and massaged information. But that is not what is now; now is now. What do we do? Thus far, it looks as though the White House and the leadership in Congress can't work together. There is too much distrust.

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Mr. MARTINEZ. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. NELSON. I thank the Senator.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I appreciate the Senator’s comments, and I so much value our relationship and our ability to work across the aisle, because we seem to get a lot done when we do that. It is the sign on one of the very difficult issues of our day, which is immigration, that we do seem to be working in a bipartisan way, and it is amazing what can be accomplished when we do work bipartisanly.

I can’t help but be shaped by my own life experience, and I remember as I came to America and was learning the ways of this country, and I admired so much this new land of mine, that I would marvel at the phrase: “Politics ends at the water’s edge.” That used to be the standard. There were these towering giants of another day who occupied these very desks we now use as ours who seemed to find it within themselves to reach a little higher and work across party lines in those post-war years, in the Cold War years when it was so essential.

I think what we need to adopt as a country is the understanding that this struggle is an enemy of a long term, that we are going to be in this fight for a long time, probably the time of your service and mine. I hope not, but perhaps. If we are going to be successful in that endeavor, we have to set politics aside and have to find a way that we can think of America first and whatever label we wear in a secondary way. I am not preaching to my colleague from Florida or anyone in particular. Frankly, the blame lies on republicans as well as Democrats. We have to find a way we can move beyond the momentary gain we might make over a 24-hour news cycle for the longer term good of the Nation and the longer term good of what America stands for to the world.

Anyway, maybe the Senator and I began a rare moment here this morning in talking about Iraq where we are not yelling at each other and we are actually talking about how we can bridge our differences and find consensus as something that will help the American people.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I am going to my colleague, work in your sphere of influence and this Senator will try to do the same. What we have is an approaching train wreck, because if the Congress passes this emergency funding bill for the war that has this week, then the President is going to veto it next week and that is going to leave us right back where we are, with both sides making a lot of noise and a lot of rhetoric, but that doesn’t get us any closer. If that passes this week, then the President is going to veto it next week and that is going to leave us right back where we are, with both sides making a lot of noise and a lot of rhetoric, but that doesn’t get us any closer.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I thank the Senator.

KIDS AND CAR SAFETY ACT

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I want to talk about a sad situation we can do something about. A year ago this little girl, Veronica Rosenfeld, and her mom were walking in their Boca Raton neighborhood. This little girl, Veronica, was about 5 feet ahead of her mother on the sidewalk when a neighbor, not seeing little Veronica, backing out of the driveway, backed over her and killed her. Her mother was right there, and there was nothing she could do about it. It is every parent’s nightmare to certainly see their child die, but how much more horrible to lose them and be totally helpless in preventing a senseless accident—an accident that could be prevented.

Let’s talk about that, the prevention of the accident. Look what has happened in the last 6 years. There has been a 138-percent increase in the last 6 years in the number of children killed in these noncrash fatalities in which people back over a child because they can’t see the child. Several children are killed every week in the United States, and sadly—and this is why I bring it up again—I have brought it up several times to the Senate—this past weekend in Florida, two more children died in their driveways. The first, in Hollywood, FL, a 3-year-old died when her father accidentally backed over her with his cargo van, and in Fort Myers, a 5-year-old was killed by her 16-year-old brother when he was parking the family car.

Mr. President, this month alone, April, there have been 11 children backed over and killed in this country. These injuries and deaths continue to occur, even though we have the technology to prevent many of them. But we need legislation to put this technology to use. In April alone—and we are not even to the end of April—they have happened in Indiana, New York, Georgia, three in Florida, two in Texas, two in California, and one in Hawaii thus far. And it is only April 24.

This is why I have been here a while, and I can say I have never seen a President as isolated since Richard Nixon. The President appears to be totally removed from reality. He tells us that Attorney General Gonzales has done a great job, when anybody who watched it views it as one of the least impressive appearances of an Attorney General. He tells us that the President of the World Bank, an American, is doing a great job, oblivious to the damage being done to America’s image around the world. And against the advice of some of the most gifted military men and women in a generation,