Mr. Speaker, I thank the

gentleman from South Carolina for yielding me

this time, and for his important leadership on

this critical issue and so many others.

I support the Spratt substitute because it is

simply the right resolution for this House to

adopt.

It is not soft on Iraq.

It requires that Saddam’s weapons of mass

destruction be destroyed.

It places the decisions Congress must make

in their proper order.

It strengthens the role of the United States

to build consensus and lead the international

community through the U.N. Security Council.

Most importantly, the Spratt substitute ensures

that war, if needed, is the last option exercised,

not the first.

And should Congress need to act on a resolution

to authorize military force, we would at

least have the benefit of debating a well-defined

mission for our troops.

Unlike the current resolution that provides

no clues as to what we are actually committing

our troops to do, the Spratt substitute ensures

that we in the United States Congress

remain accountable to the American people

and our Constitutionally-mandated responsibilities.

The Spratt amendment reflects the successful

model used by then-President Bush in

1991.

It is a model worth following.

I ask all my colleagues to support the Spratt

substitute.