Mr. Speaker, the

Congress of the United States has just

received from the White House a proposed

draft which would put this Congress

on the path of approving a war

with Iraq. The text of the resolution is

very instructive, because the text of

the resolution seems to ignore some

basic facts, and facts are important.

They are urgent at this moment in our

Nation’s history.

The first fact we must keep in mind:

Iraq had nothing to do with 9–11, yet

the text of the administration’s resolution

implies that Iraq is connected to

9–11.

Second: Iraq has not been connected

to al Qaeda, but the text of the administration’s

resolution implies that

somehow Saddam Hussein has something

to do with the al Qaeda terrorist

network. Even the United States’ own

intelligence agencies, which have considerable

resources, have not been able

to establish that.

We also know that Iraq was not connected

to the anthrax attacks upon

this Nation. Yet the resolution which

the administration has presented to

this Congress would ask this Congress

to wage war against Iraq as a matter of

self-defense.

Now, what is self-defense? Self-defense

is when someone attacks you,

you have a right to defend yourself. On

September 11, the year 2001, the United

States was attacked. We have a right

to defend ourselves. On the vote that

came before this Congress on September

14, I joined other Members of

Congress in voting for America to defend

itself and in voting for America to

pursue the terrorists and to bring them

to justice; a task, I might add, which is

unfinished. Yet that is ignored in this

resolution.

This resolution instead will urge the

American people to finance to the tune

of over $100 billion a war against a nation

which has not waged war against

us. For the first time in our country’s

history, we are going to be asked to approve

a resolution to wage a war of aggression,

not a war of defense.

This is an important moment in the

history of our Republic. All credible intelligence

says that Iraq does not have

usable weapons of mass destruction.

They were destroyed in the Gulf War.

Those weapons capabilities, which Iraq

got from, guess who, the Bush administration,

the first Bush administration,

capabilities for biological, chemical

and nuclear weapons of mass destruction,

they were all destroyed in the

Gulf War. Yet the administration

would have the people of this country

believe that Iraq still possesses those

capabilities.

They do not. We have the ability to

tell if anyone in the world is making

nuclear weapons. We have technology

that can tell if gamma rays are being

emitted, which are an essential telltale

proof of this work of construction

of nuclear weapons.

There are 17 nations in the world

which either possess, are trying to get,

or actually have nuclear weapons capability.

Are we going to begin waging

war against some of those nations? Because

this resolution brought by the

administration to this Congress would

somehow enable the administration to

pursue war wherever they wanted to in

the region.

Think about this, America: Iraq does

not have any usable weapons of mass

destruction. They do not have the ability

to deliver those weapons to the

United States. No one can come before

this House and say that Iraq can

launch a missile, if they had one, from

Baghdad and send it here.

We have to establish the truth. ‘‘Ye

shall know the truth and the truth

shall set you free,’’ it says in the Scriptures.

Let the truth guide America in

this period. Let the truth create peace.

Let the truth steer us away from war

and find a path where America can protect

the very soul of our Nation.