Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong

support of the men and women who are so bravely serving our country in

Iraq and around the world.

Our best and bravest continue to perform selflessly and admirably. We

owe them our deepest respect and appreciation.

We also have an obligation to provide them, and the American people,

with a clear set of objectives, a comprehensive strategy to achieve

these objectives, and a roadmap to return home once these objectives

are achieved. But, the Bush Administration has not done this.

My colleagues, people all across the country, Republicans and

Democrats, want to know why our intelligence was wrong. They want to

know why our troops don't have the necessary body armor. They want to

know what our objectives are and what progress has been made in

achieving them. And, they want to know what concrete steps must be

taken to achieve troop withdrawals.

Yet, the Administration's only response to these legitimate questions

is to criticize those that ask them as unpatriotic and provide the

empty rhetoric of ``stay the course''. This is irresponsible, morally

reprehensible and shameful--to our troops, to the American people, and

to our democracy. It demoralizes our mission and is a direct challenge

to the freedom and liberty that so many of our troops have fought and

died for.

It is Congress's fundamental responsibility to investigate whether

faulty intelligence led us to war; to provide our troops with the

necessary training, equipment, and supplies; and to ensure that our

nation has a clearly defined strategy to achieve success in Iraq and

provide for the return of our troops.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that Congress fulfills our obligations. Our

troops have shown time and time again that when presented with a

challenge, they will achieve it. They have done their part; it is time

we do our part.