Mr. Speaker, I rise today, firmly and resolutely opposed

to both this rule and the underlying conference report.

I regret to say that the Democratic leaders have once again

demonstrated that it is either their way or the highway, except this

time it is our fighting men and women who are left stranded in the

middle of the road.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly saddened and, in truth, even angered by the

majority's insistence on putting this war, our generals, and our war

fighters on auto pilot with a forced retreat and an inflexible

timetable.

The consequences of this decision, should it become law, will echo

long beyond this date, this year, this decade. Defeat should not be an

option, and yet it seems that this majority believes it is the only

option.

We are at a critical juncture in history when the defenders of

liberty and freedom have to stand firm against tyrants and terrorists.

And I will remind the gentleman from Virginia that just spoke,

indeed, the famous quote says, ``There are times in our history when

the tree of liberty must be nourished by the blood of patriots.''

Sure, without question, this war has been hard fought every step of

the way, and it will continue to be. But few things worthwhile in life

are ever easy.

Regrettably, this majority was bought and paid for by MoveOn.org and

liberal extremists, and now they have come to collect, unfortunately,

at the expense of our military and our security, today, tomorrow, and

for decades to come.

When the Speaker of the House pushes to rewrite our foreign policy

and yet refuses to meet with General Petraeus, our commander on the

ground in Iraq, it becomes abundantly clear this majority would rather

push left-wing politics over sound policy.

This political theater would be funny if its consequences weren't a

matter of life and death, of victory and defeat. Every day that we

delay a legitimate war-funding bill, the resources of our military and

our soldiers' quality of life are diminished. In fact, this delay has

forced the Pentagon to move $800 million from the Air Force's personnel

accounts, money to pay our servicemembers, to make up for the gaps in

the war funding.

I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, oppose this rule,

oppose this conference report. Let us end this political game and truly

give victory a chance.

We can do better, Mr. Speaker. We have an obligation to do better for

the sake of the men and women who put their lives on the line in Iraq

and Afghanistan to protect ours.