Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in great opposition to this rule and to this

conference report.

We are here, yet again, discussing a Democrat plan for a statutory

date certain for America's defeat in Iraq. We are here, yet again,

discussing the Democrats' ``slow bleed'' strategy for our brave men and

women in uniform in Iraq, designed to gradually deny them the critical

equipment, support, and reinforcements they need to do the job. We are

here, yet again, discussing just how much pork and unrelated spending

can be shoved into this conference report to encourage or persuade

reluctant Members to support this legislation.

And, Mr. Speaker, according to today's L.A. Times and other major

media outlets, we are likely to have this vote again and again and

again because the majority party's leadership somehow believes it is in

their political interests to do so.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we all know about the recent announcement of the

Democratic leader in the Senate. He has announced to our troops, he has

announced to al Qaeda, he has announced to the world that the war in

Iraq is lost.

Mr. Speaker, Corporal Tyler Rock of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines

seems to disagree. I would quote him directly, but I believe the House

rules would not permit it; so allow me to paraphrase that he has a

quote for the Senate majority leader. Let me go on to say that he has

said, ``We could leave this place and say we are sorry to the

terrorists, and then we could wait for 3,000 more American civilians to

die before we say, `Hey, that's not nice again.' ''

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that Corporal Rock speaks for most of our

troops. Let's not cut their support. There will be no greater event to

empower radical Islam than our defeat and retreat from Iraq.

The terrorists that we fight there believe they have the moral

authority to kill 2 million, 2 million of our children, two of them

being my own.

They are the ones that say the battlefield is in Iraq. Why can't we

understand that in the Halls of Congress?

There is no doubt that fighting this war is costly. There is no more

difficult duty I have, or any of us have, than to meet with the mothers

of those who have lost loved ones on the field of battle. But as

difficult as that duty is, I never, never, never want to meet with the mothers who lose children in

the next 9/11 because we turned our back on our duty.

The cost of fighting this war is great. The cost of losing it is

greater.