Mr. Speaker, Republican leaders say that this

unamendable, nonbinding, purely oratory resolution crafted behind

closed doors is a referendum on the war on terror. And it is, but not

in the way they characterize it.

It is a blanket endorsement of the failed policies, of the diversion

of troops and resources from Afghanistan, and the effort to eradicate

the Taliban, al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. Remember him, the leader of

the 9/11 plot? We have not heard much about Osama bin Laden. He is

still out there.

It is about the redirection of the bulk of our military intelligence

efforts to an unnecessary, preemptive war against the bloody, loathsome

dictator who did not have weapons of mass destruction, was not involved

in 9/11, was contained, and no direct threat to the United States.

Secretary Rumsfeld, Vice President Cheney said we would be in and out

of Iraq in 90 days. Three years, 3 months later, 2,500 dead, we are

still there in the middle of a civil war.

A vote for this resolution is a vote to stay the course,

unconditionally, indefinitely in Iraq, and leave our troops in the

middle of that war. You should not support it. If you want to lead our

troops out of the middle of a civil war in Iraq, redeploy and redirect

these efforts to a more productive use of our Nation's resources and

put an end to al Qaeda and the Taliban once and for all.