Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to House Resolution

612, and in honor and support of our military personnel, I earnestly

request an open debate on the war and occupation in Iraq.

I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 612, the measure offered by

Representatives Hyde and Ros-Lehtinen.

In pushing this measure rather than the one offered by Congressman

Steny Hoyer, Republicans are once again denying the House of

Representatives the opportunity for free, fair, and open debate on our

continued involvement in Iraq. This maneuver is pure subterfuge

designed to hide the Bush administration's continuing cover-up of the

rationale behind their behavior in Iraq, as well as the incompetent and

corrupt manner in which American occupation of Iraq has been carried

out.

The Republican leadership has the responsibility to bring a genuine

and serious debate over Iraq to the floor, so that all of the

implications of our continued involvement can be thoroughly debated

before the eyes of the American people. H. Res. 612 does nothing to

address this responsibility.