Mr. Speaker, last night the President reiterated his

plans to send more troops to Iraq, despite bipartisan opposition in

Congress and the opposition of most Americans.

Iraq is in a civil war. The violence that plagues Iraq is increasing,

and our troops are caught in the middle of Iraqi sectarian violence. We

have lost 3,032 of our brave men and women in this war.

Mr. Speaker and Members, despite the fact that the President talks

about his surge, or what we know it to be, an expansion, we have to

remember, these are not new boots on the ground. These tours are being

extended. These tours are being extended, and some of our men and women

in the military are being asked to extend their tours two and three

times. They are also shortening the length of time that these soldiers

have at home. Many of them, who have been on two tours and expect to go

home and spend a little time with their families, are being told, no,

you won't be able to spend the time that you thought you were going to

be able to spend. You have got to come back after having been home a

shorter period of time. Even the National Guard. They are now

eliminating the limitations on how many times they can be called up for

Active Duty. So these are not new boots on the ground.

As the Iraq Study Group noted in its report, ``Attacks against U.S.

coalition and Iraqi security forces are persistent and growing. Total

attacks in October 2006 averaged 180 per day, up from 70 per day in

January 2006. Daily attacks against Iraqi security forces in October

were more than double the level in January. Attacks against civilians

in October were four times higher than in January. Some 3,000 Iraqi

civilians are killed every month.''

The United Nations estimated that more than 34,000 civilians were

violently killed across Iraq in 2006, with an average of 94 killed

every day.

The U.S. Department of Defense claims that the number of Iraqis that

are trained and equipped is increasing each month. In fact, they claim

that there are almost 300,000 Iraqis trained.

However, our troops are in a difficult situation, and they cannot

trust many of those who serve in Iraq's security forces. For example,

American troops often complain that Iraqi police and soldiers tip off

the targets of raids ahead of time. American troops also say that

Iraqis flee during some of the security operations. It is also reported

that the Iraqi desertion rate is high among those who serve in Iraqi

security forces. Sending more U.S. troops to Iraq will only put more of

them at risk.

Mr. Speaker, and Members, I am worried. I am worried that our Nation,

our Commander in Chief is on the path to confrontation with al-Sadr and

al-Sadr City, and I believe that this is going to be disastrous.

First of all, I don't trust Maliki, who is friends with al-Sadr.

Remember when the President of the United States went to Jordan to meet

with Maliki, he was stopped from going into that meeting by al-Sadr. He

finally did meet before he left Jordan, but that was an exercise of

power by al-Sadr. And I don't want this confrontation.

There are over 50,000 Iraqis in that militia, and I don't want our

soldiers, with so-called Iraqi soldiers working with them, fighting

with us, who may desert them, who may tip them off, to confront this

militia. I want our soldiers out of there before it happens.

On Saturday, I will be marching with Representative Lynn Woolsey and

thousands of other Americans who want to end this war and bring our

troops home. The rally that is going to be held here in Washington,

D.C., will attract millions, and we will send a clear message to

President Bush and his administration that we have had enough. It is

time to bring our troops home, and it is time to use diplomacy to

stabilize Iraq and the Middle East region.

Mr. Speaker, and Members, we have Members of Congress who voted to

support the Commander in Chief. They

voted to go into this war. But many of them are saying to us today, if

they had known then what they know now, they never would have taken

that vote to send our troops into that war.

Of course, we don't have to say it, but we must remind people over

and over again, there were no weapons of mass destruction. There was no

reason for us to go into Iraq. We have destabilized Iraq. We are

destabilizing the entire Middle East, and we cannot win with this

strategy that the President has employed.

And I would simply say to my colleagues, please do everything you can

to help get us out.