Mr. Speaker, I support our courageous men and women in

uniform who are bearing the burden of this military action in Iraq. I

am deeply grateful for their patriotism, and their sacrifice.

Unfortunately, this resolution does not simply support our troops--it

is an endorsement of this President's policy of unilateral, preemptive

military action, and it makes the dubious assertion that the world

today is safer than it was before the Iraq war began.

Considering that the President's budget does not request a single

dollar for the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan or

provide the health care and benefits that our wounded servicemen and

women deserve when they come home, I find it deeply ironic that the

leadership of this House is so eager to offer a resolution praising our

troops but empty of material support.

I would have happily supported an honest and fair resolution

expressing support for our troops, but that is not what we are being

asked to vote on today. The fact is President Bush and the Republican

majority have not provided our troops in Iraq the body armor and

armored vehicles they need to be as safe as they can be. The

Administration has not explained its faulty ``intelligence'' to justify

the decision to go to war or its failure to plan adequately for the

post-war occupation of Iraq. The President clearly has not provided the

Congress with an accurate accounting for the costs of the ongoing

military operations in Iraq.

This resolution makes no mention of the more than 550 American

service men and women who have been killed, another 2,500 Americans

wounded, many grievously, or the thousands of Iraqis who have died

during this conflict. Nor does this resolution mention the more than

200 people killed just last week in Madrid, and those who have been

killed in numerous other terrorist attacks since the war began. It is

hypocritical and disingenuous for the sponsors of this resolution to

claim that the world is a safer place while ignoring the fact that

terrorist operations in response to our occupation of Iraq are

occurring with alarming frequency.

Mr. Speaker, like all of my colleagues, I am happy that Saddam

Hussein no longer has the power to abuse and slaughter his own people--

but unlike the claim made in this resolution, I do not believe that the

world is a safer, less dangerous place than it was twelve months ago.

Nor do I believe that we have provided our troops everything that they

need to do their job properly.

The resolution that we are voting on today is really just a reminder

of what the Bush Administration would like us to forget from the past

year--the hidden costs, the faulty intelligence, the failure to find

weapons of mass destruction, the false claims of links between al-Qaeda

and Saddam Hussein, and the rising number of dead and wounded--and I

cannot support it.