Mr. Speaker, as I read this resolution, I can't help

but think ``there they go again.''

With approval ratings of Congress near record lows, the majority

leadership searches the polls for any issue they can use to political

advantage. Unfortunately, their attempt to improve their standing comes

at the expense of troops on the ground and our country's security.

Of course the American people are concerned about the course of

events in Iraq. Of course they mourn each loss. Of course they want our

troops to come home as soon as possible. Of course they do, because we

all do.

But responsible leadership does not permit pandering to polls and

understandable emotions without facing up to the real consequences of

the vote. And by the way, putting the word ``responsible'' in the title

of a bill does not make it so. It is an understandable, though I

believe misguided, position to require an immediate withdrawal of

forces from Iraq. This resolution, though, is an attempt to play

politics with the issue and avoid responsibility for the consequences

that come from its aftermath.

Requiring withdrawal on a congressionally mandated timetable abandons

those who have worked with us, invites chaos and more death in Iraq and

increases the risk to our security here at home. No one should be able

to stick his or her head in the sand and ignore those consequences.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that what goes on in this Chamber with

resolutions like this is encouraging to our adversaries and makes the

job of our troops on the ground even harder than it needs to be. How

can it possibly be responsible to declare failure when all of our

troops have only been in Iraq for just about exactly 1 month today.

This struggle and the broader war against radical Islamist terrorists

will require the best of us, and that requires doing our constitutional

duty. This resolution is far from the best we can do.