Mr. Speaker, back in February when this Congress started

the 110th, there was a proposal up here, a resolution that passed with

mostly Democrat support, very few Republicans, to say we supported the

troops but we opposed the surge or the escalation. Since that time, we

have put 20,000 or 30,000 more troops into Iraq, and since that time we

have had some of the deadliest months that we have incurred in this

failed war in the Middle East.

As time has gone on, we have seen Senators Voinovich; Lamar Alexander

from my home State; Lugar; and others on the Republican side in the

Senate come forth and say we need a change of direction. The

handwriting has been on the wall in both cloakrooms. The handwriter got

to the Democratic cloakroom a lot sooner than apparently the handwriter

got to the Republican cloakroom. Either that, or the optometrist hasn't

made it over to the other side. But the handwriting is on the wall, and

in the interim there are American men and women dying needlessly. Over

3,600 have died; many, many, many, many more casualties, and the cost

to this country will be great.

While I was home during the home workweek, I saw a lady who told me

her son has been at Desert Storm. He was still in the military. He had

been in Iraq once before. And she told me he told her, Mother, I am

proud to fight for my country. I have done it twice. But there is no

purpose over there, there is no reason to be over there. We need to

come home. I have heard it over and over and over again from the

mothers of the soldiers who come home with testimony to our failed

foreign policy.

How many, how many, how many more must die? How many more limbs must

be lost before the handwriting on the wall in the Republican cloakroom

is read? I ask you to look in your own hearts. Think of the soldiers as

your children, they are your constituents, and help redeploy them. We

are not saying in this proposal that we come home entirely. We keep

troops for certain causes.