Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this

resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the motion being

considered. Yet again, I find myself standing in defense of our

military leaders and our honorable men and women in uniform. Today's

ill-conceived resolution is another example of partisan maneuvering by

the Democrats. I think it is important to remind my colleagues exactly

what is being sought by this resolution and the negative effect it will

have. While our troops are fighting in Iraq, Democratic leadership is

attempting to draw attention from any signs of progress and ignore the

sound strategy that we laid out earlier this year. What happened to the

promise of a New Way Forward in Iraq?

General Petraeus has honorably taken on this leadership role in this

war with the support of Democrats in the other body, and yet, here

today the Democrats seek to publicly undermine him. It is shameful. He

was given a job to do--to execute the Baghdad Security Plan--and he is

doing it alongside our troops. The plan is still underway and today's

interim report indicates a reduction in violent attacks in Baghdad. We

should be standing with him, with our plan, and allowing for its full

implementation. Instead, however, we see today the real Democratic

agenda in this resolution: the truth is the Democrats aren't interested

in whether or not the security plan will work.

Mr. Speaker, I question whether this resolution would do more harm

than good. A precipitous withdrawal of troops would seriously endanger

our soldiers and would signal defeat to our enemies around the world.

Mr. Speaker this House speaks loudest when it speaks with purpose,

and voting to remove troops before receiving the report in September,

that we asked for, is contradictory and bad policy. This bill does not

honor the sacrifice and dedication of our troops who have fought to

implement the plan we approved.

We should never miss the opportunity in this House to act in the best

interest of our foreign

policy and our men and women in harm's way. We should--at every

opportunity--reject undermining the faith and dedicated work of our

brave men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposing this

dangerous resolution. It is the duty of this House and of this Congress

and of this Nation to give our men and women the support they need to

see this conflict through. We have allocated a timeframe for our new

General, and now we must allow our military leaders the opportunity to

prevail.