Let me thank our chairman for yielding me this time.

To date, we have spent almost half a trillion dollars on the Iraq

war. Over 3,600 American lives have been lost, and more than 26,000

Americans have been wounded. When the President announced his

escalation plan 6 months ago, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said it

would only last a few months. Majority Leader Boehner said we would

know whether or not the escalation succeeded or failed within 90 days.

And Secretary Rice said we would not stay married to a plan that is not

working.

Since the President announced this surge, we have lost nearly 600

American troops and spent more than $60 billion. In fact, the monthly

cost in lives and resources has increased dramatically since the war

began.

Today, the American people received an interim report from the

President on his escalation plan. This was the verdict: None of the 18

benchmarks he outlined in January have been reached. In fact, it

clearly illustrated how far the Iraqi Government is from political

progress and national reconciliation.

A recently released national intelligence report concludes that al

Qaeda has reconstituted its core network and may be a stronger

terrorist organization than it was a year ago. In fact, it could be

closer to pre-9/11 strength and reach.

Republicans have spoken out against this war, failed policies in Iraq

yet, out of fear of being called names, are reluctant to vote against

this resolution.

What have we come to when if people express their consciences, they

are called names? It's beneath the dignity of the sacrifices of our men

and women, and I ask my colleagues to vote for this resolution.