Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day.

Decades ago, I ran for Congress because I opposed the War in Vietnam.

After arriving in Washington, I carried out the will of my

constituents, repeatedly voting to stop funding the death of American

troops and Vietnamese civilians.

More than 4 years ago, I voted against the original resolution

authorizing the President to take unprecedented preemptive military

action against Iraq. In the years since, I have consistently opposed

the President at every turn, always voting to deny him the funding he

requested to continue his failed War in Iraq.

Last November, the American people delivered a loud and clear message

to their representatives in Washington. In electing a Democratic House

and Senate, the public demanded a new direction in Iraq.

Today, however, we're staying the course.

The supplemental before us includes no deadlines for troop withdrawal

and no enforceable benchmarks for holding President Bush accountable.

In other words, there is no way I--or the overwhelming majority of my

constituents--would ever support it.

We can't go on like this, killing our troops and Iraqi civilians--and

wasting tens of billions of dollars that would be better spent on vital

domestic priorities like education and health care.

You know who supports this bill? President Bush and Republicans in

Congress who refuse to acknowledge either the Shiite-Sunni civil war or

our lack of progress in Iraq.

I strongly urge my colleagues to remember who sent them to

Washington. It wasn't President Bush; it was America's voters. They've

made their opposition to this war clear. It's time for Congress to do

the same.