Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me

time.

My colleague from Pennsylvania is concerned about victory for our

enemies. Well, the victory for our enemies is made possible by our

pursuing a failed policy.

We are creating an inevitable situation in which our country

continues to lose prestige and support around the world. But, much more

importantly, we are losing the precious lives of our young people; and

tens of thousands have been injured.

I was over at Walter Reed. I met and visited with some of the wounded

soldiers. And I will never forget the day I met Cassandra Bryant, 20

years old, who lost both her legs to an improvised explosive device in

Iraq. She was in a mechanical unit that was supposedly nowhere near the

front line, but, nonetheless, for the rest of her life, she will have

to go without her legs. Her sacrifice on behalf of our country, if in

the face of a national security threat, would be understandable, and

she was prepared to even give more. But to sacrifice so much. Our young

people have done it in a place in a war that we should have never

fought, we should have never been in.

There was ample information and evidence that Saddam possessed no

weapons of mass destruction. The international inspectors were forced

out of the country when, first of all, they found none and they wanted

to continue their work.

This administration rushed to judgment into a war in which we have

spent hundreds of billions of dollars and in which over 3,000 young

people have lost their lives. And in Philadelphia, for Mrs. Zappala and

for Mrs. Jeff Coat and for other mothers and fathers who have lost

their sons and daughters in Iraq, this war and this effort in Iraq,

which some suggest if we would just prosecute it more vigorously would

somehow overnight become a success, we need to look at the conduct of

this war on behalf of our Armed Forces.

This administration has failed our troops on the ground on so many

occasions. On one occasion, there was a shortage of bullets. On others,

we have seen reports that they were not having access to enough long

rifles. We know that they have never had, in the 4 years now, enough

up-armored vehicles to be able to do their patrols. We have failed to

provide the body armor and Kevlar vests that are necessary and in the

quantities that are needed.

The embarrassment of the conduct of this war is only equal to the

stupidity that took us to Iraq in the first place. And what we need to

do is not just vote in support of this resolution but this Congress

would do better if we would understand that our young men and women

don't wear Democrat or Republican dog tags. They are sons and daughters

of our country. They are precious. Their willingness to sacrifice on

behalf of our Nation should not be taken for granted.

We should move to redeploy. Forget the question of an additional

surge. Why would we want to have our young people in a situation where

the only time the Sunnis and the Shiites stop killing each other is

when they both are willing to turn their weapons against our young

people?

We are in the middle of a civil war. Clearly, in the case of a civil

war, the definition suggests that we are unwelcome visitors. We should

redeploy.

And if there are needs, and I think there are, for peacekeeping and

stabilization forces, we should ask some of our friendly Arab countries

in the region to provide some of their troops. We provide over $1

billion a year to the Egyptian military, one of the largest in the

world and the largest in the Arab world. They do joint training with

our troops and have done so for decades. If there is a need for troops,

let us get our young people out of the way. And since the President

said we went there in part to stabilize the region for our friendly

Arab neighbors, let them step forward now and secure the region.

Our young people have done the hard work. They have done the heavy

lifting. They have died on the fields of battle in Iraq, and it is time

for this Congress to act responsibly. Let us rise on this day and speak

not just in symbol but in substance on behalf of the fighting men and

women of the American military.