I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my concern about the Iraq resolution offered by my

friends on the other side of the aisle is what impact it will have on

our troops and our mission and its consequences on our mission. How can

you say support our troops when you don't support sending in the people

necessary to back them up to do the job that we sent them there to do

to start with?

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker, about who the real enemy is. We are at

war with the Islamic jihadists. Jihadists have vowed to destroy

America, the West and all sympathizers with democracy. We are at war

for our very existence against jihadists who have vowed to enslave us

with a fundamentalist philosophy that rejects all human rights.

The consequences of failure in Iraq are not just failure in Iraq.

Iraq's stability has direct repercussions on Iran, Saudi Arabia, Israel

and all of the Middle East. If our efforts to bring peace and stability

to Iraq are successful, we will accomplish a great deal. If not, if

Iraq fails, it will provide Islamic jihadists with a sanctuary similar

to the one we removed from Afghanistan, only the sanctuary in Iraq

would be many times worse, as the terrorists would have access to

billions of dollars of oil resources to carry out their evil plans.

Such a sanctuary would threaten Europe and the United States.

If we are in support of our military men and women, we must support

their mission against Islamic jihadists. The alternative is defeat in

Iraq and a greater threat of attack here at home.

A defeat in Iraq would not just be a defeat for the United States. It

would also set back any chance for peace and stability in the Middle

East. It would empower terrorists to unleash greater sectarian

violence, which would draw all of Iraq's neighbors into a Sunni versus

Shi'a conflict for control of Iraq.

I am also concerned about the resolution because it does not offer

any alternative whatsoever that could lead to a successful outcome for

the United States in Iraq. All the resolution does is to criticize the

President's plan to augment our existing force in Iraq by 21,000-plus

troops.

The Democratic resolution offers no other plan. It does not address

what should be the right strategy or the right tactics. In effect, and

I think this is the real issue, it endorses the status quo in Iraq, a

position that I certainly can't support, and I hear lots of those that

are supporting this say they can't support either, but they are de

facto supporting the status quo by supporting this resolution.

I look forward to the majority offering a comprehensive proposal that

would set forth a specific course of action. Then we could have a real

debate on the pros and cons of the Democratic plan versus the

President's plan to secure Iraq and defeat the terrorists in that

country. Unfortunately, the resolution before us fails to do this, and

therefore I can't support it. It should be rejected.