Mr. Speaker, our brave men and women in Iraq have answered

every call, accomplished every task, won every battle. Our brave men

and women in Iraq have fought valiantly. They have executed their

mission with quiet dignity and with honor that is worthy of our praise.

In looking back at all that our military has done, there has been no

task that these brave men and women have not accomplished. They have

risen to every occasion. However, we are not here today just to applaud

our troops' performance. We are here today to ask if the surge

direction that the President is taking us is the right direction for

these brave troops. Is it the right direction for our country, and is

it the right direction for the people of Iraq? The answer is

unequivocally ``no.''

For the last 4 years of this conflict, the President has relied on

the judgment of his military to execute this war and to follow their

advice. Now at this critical hour, he has chosen to ignore their

expertise and advice. The Joint Chiefs have unanimously disagreed with

the surge.

General James Conway, commander of the Marine Corps, is quoted as

saying, ``We do not believe that just adding numbers for the sake of

adding numbers, just thickening the mix, is necessarily the way to

go.''

General John Abizaid has met with every divisional commander and

asked, ``If we were to bring more American troops now, does it add

considerably to our ability to achieve success?'' They all said ``no.''

General Colin Powell has said the surge will not work. General Wesley

Clark, Ambassador Holbrooke, Oliver North, Michael Vicker, Lawrence

Corb, Richard Haas, have all said the surge will not work. And the list

goes on and on and on.

Why does the President, Mr. Speaker, choose to ignore expert after

expert, soldier after soldier, who say the surge will not work? Even

General Petraeus has said, and I quote, ``The way ahead will be neither

quick nor easy, and undoubtedly there will be tough days. We have a

determined, adaptive barbaric enemy. He will try to wait us out. Any

such endeavor is a test of wills and there are no guarantees.''

Mr. Speaker, former Secretary of State James Baker has said, ``There

is no magic bullet to solve the problem of Iraq. No single answer. No

quick fix.'' From this microphone over the last 2 days, my colleagues

on the other side of the aisle have tried to frame this debate about

success and failure in Iraq.

That debate is for another day. Today and tomorrow, the debate is

about the wisdom or the lack of wisdom for the surge. The President and

the members of his party today need to listen to the experts who they

have relied upon in the past. To do otherwise, casts doubts about who

the President is listening to.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that this surge in the troops is the

wrong policy at the wrong time, in the wrong war. The actions that need

to be taken to help the Iraqi people and ultimately bring our brave men

and women home safely is not as simple as rushing more troops to the

front lines.

Mr. Speaker, a while ago I heard my good friend and colleague from

Indiana speak about how the Iraq Study Group actually said that a surge

is something that probably is necessary.

But there is more to the story than just a military surge. They also

recommended that there has to be economic surge, and diplomatic surges,

not just military. I talked to one of the Iraq study members just

yesterday, who told me that a military surge by itself will not work.

The military has done all it can do, and they have done it very well.

Now is the time to move in a different direction, Mr. Speaker. Vote for

this resolution. Vote ``no'' to the surge.