Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this

pretend, fake, disingenuous, cruel-to-the-troops resolution. It is

impossible, despite what the Democrats have claimed, to both support

the troops and not support the increase in troops necessary to win the

war.

With this nonbinding, fake, pretend resolution, Democrats maintain

they support the troops but at the same time disapprove of their

mission. This confusing message simply lends encouragement to the Iraqi

insurgents and terrorists to believe that every roadside bomb brings

them closer to their goal of a terrorist state in the heart of the

Mideast.

The simple fact is the deployment of troops to secure Baghdad has

already begun. In fact, soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division, who

were deployed after President Bush's call for a temporary increase in

troops, are already in Iraq doing critical work with the Iraqi Security

Forces.

The passage of this misguided, pretend resolution does nothing except

demoralize these brave men and women in uniform and invigorate those

who wish America great harm.

The consequences of failure in Iraq could not be greater. The outcome

in Iraq will directly affect America's efforts in the global war on

terrorism for many generations. A victory for the Islamic militants,

such as the al Qaeda members who are embedded in the Anbar Province in

Iraq and the Iranians in Iraq who are provoking sectarian violence,

would embolden the enemy to expand the reach of their efforts. Retreat

would result in instability in the region, encourage radical Islamic

terrorists and rogue regimes to expand into the region, and give

terrorists a sanctuary from which to launch attacks against the U.S.

and the West.

The bipartisan Iraqi Study Group, a bipartisan group, recognized the

need of a troop surge to secure Iraq. To this end, I submit page 27

through 29 and page 73 of the Iraqi Study Group report for the Record

on this issue to highlight the grave humanitarian consequences of a

withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Iraq.

I am tired of hearing Democrats constantly criticize our plans for

Iraq, yet they do not have a plan of their own. It is a shame that they

have chosen to play politics with the men and women in uniform in Iraq.

Democrats now have the responsibility to govern, but they lack both a

plan for success in Iraq and the political will to advance a bill that

cuts off funds for our troops.

They say that the problems in Iraq can only be solved by a political

solution. While this is true to some extent, you cannot solve the

problems in Iraq diplomatically and politically without first providing

security to the Iraqi people. Security must go hand in hand with the

political solution.

Democrats need to understand that their political choices and

rhetoric hurt our troops and morale and give comfort, great comfort, to

our enemy.

We also agree that this is a time for Iraqis to step forward and end

sectarian violence and build a responsible government. Iraqi Prime

Minister Maliki has promised the American people that in this new

campaign Iraqi troops will be the ones knocking down doors, arresting

insurgents and patrolling streets, with U.S. troops in a supporting

role. We cannot give up at a critical point in Iraq's fledgling

democracy.

Failure in Iraq is not an option. If we do not win in Iraq, we leave

it up to our future generations to tackle the problems of Islamic

terrorism in an unstable region. There is no short-term solution in

Iraq because there is not a short-term problem.

Today, our brave men and women in Iraq are rising to the challenge to

secure Baghdad. I encourage my colleagues to vote ``no'' on this ill-

timed resolution.