I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, various news organizations have now confirmed what the

Democrats really have in mind with this nonbinding resolution, and that

is, choke off funding for the troops.

Though they haven't really said it on this House floor, they have

said it to their political base, moveon.org, and I hold the transcript

in my hand. Let's listen to the words of our colleague, the gentleman

from Pennsylvania (Mr. Murtha) who, as we all know, controls our

military spending panel.

``They won't be able to continue. They won't be able to do the

deployment. They won't have the equipment, they don't have the training

and they won't be able to do the work. There's no question in my

mind.''

He was further quoted as saying, ``We have to be careful people don't

think this is the vote.''

Last evening, CBS News noted that our colleague's proposal ``is a way

to get at the same goal without holding a vote to cut funding.'' Again,

Mr. Speaker, that goal is to cut funding of the troops. The goal is to

accept defeat.

Now, I know the author of this proposal has served his Nation with

great courage and great honor, but I for one fail to see the courage

and the honor in this proposal.

The Politico Magazine has called this proposal the ``Slow Bleed

Strategy.'' The slow bleed strategy. I wonder who it is who is doing

the bleeding.

Mr. Speaker, how does anybody look one of our brave soldiers in the

eye and tell them, I don't believe in your mission. I don't believe you

can succeed and I have the power to bring you home; I have the power to

bring you home today but I am not willing to do it because, if I did, I

would have to take responsibility and I am concerned about political

ramifications.

Mr. Speaker, if my Democrat colleagues truly want to cut off funding

for the troops and withdraw from Iraq, then let them vote on it today.

Let them show the courage of their convictions and vote on it today. We

cannot accept this slow bleed strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I know that fighting this war is costly. It is costly in

terms of blood. It is costly in terms of money. Like many other of my

colleagues, I have met with the mothers who have lost sons in Iraq.

Their plight is profound; it is sad. But Mr. Speaker, I never, never,

never want to meet with the mothers whose children might perish in the

next 9/11 if we accept defeat in Iraq.

Iraq must be seen in the context of this larger war we are having

with radical Islam. The battle lines are drawn, and whether we like it

or not, they are drawn in Iraq. Don't take my word for it. Listen to

Osama bin Laden. ``The epicenter of these wars is Baghdad. Success in

Baghdad will be success for the United States. Failure in Iraq is the

failure of the United States. Their defeat in Iraq will mean defeat in

all their wars.''

We have to soberly reflect on the enemy that we are facing. Listen to

the number two in al Qaeda, al-Zawahiri. ``Al Qaeda has the right to

kill 4 million Americans, 2 million of them children.'' As the father

of a 4-year-old and a 3-year-old, I find that to be a chilling

statement.

Listen to Hassan Abbassi, Revolutionary Guard's intelligence adviser

to the Iranian President. ``We have a strategy drawn up for the

destruction of Anglo-Saxon civilization.''

This is the enemy we face, and we face him foremost in Iraq. If we

leave Iraq before subduing him, he will follow us to America, make no

mistake about it, and the consequences are immense. Read the National

Intelligence Estimate. Read the report of the Iraq Study Group.

Iraq has the potential to become what Afghanistan once was under the

Taliban, and that is, a breeding ground and a safe haven for the

recruitment, training, financing and sanctuary of radical Islamists

bent upon attacking our Nation and attacking our families. There will

be no greater event to empower the radical Islamists in our defeat in

Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it doesn't have to be this way. We are Americans. We can

meet this threat. We can work together. Vote against this resolution.

Let's support our troops. Let's protect our Nation and our children

from this threat.