I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, a prominent feature of this debate has been two

sharply contrasting visions of the future. One vision sees no hope for

us in Iraq and counsels that we withdraw, just give up. By contrast,

the other mission focuses on success. We understand what accepting

defeat means for Iraq.

We understand what accepting defeat means for Iraq, the region and

our Nation's security interest. We support modifications and strategy

to address the enemy's changing tactics, and we are committed to

destroying the enemy before the enemy can destroy us. This success

policy is rooted in the fabric of the American character, in our belief

in the ability of our troops to achieve success in Iraq and Afghanistan

and on all the fronts on this global war against Islamic militant

jihadists.

The resolution at the center of this debate, Madam Speaker, lacks

hope. It accepts defeat. It opposes reinforcements for our troops on

the battlefield, reinforcements that strengthens their capacity to

confront the enemy and succeed in their mission.

General Petraeus said that he cannot accomplish his mission without

the deployment of additional U.S. forces. This resolution, however,

announces that Congress will deny the commander in Iraq the means he

says he needs to win. This resolution seeks to transform this House

into 435 generals.

What is the next step in the strategy, Madam Speaker, after the

crippling of our war effort? We know from statements and bills that

have been introduced that plans will mandate the nature and the timing

of a withdrawal by placing limitations on the funding of our efforts. A

vote for this resolution then is a vote to proceed toward defunding of

our troops.

Some believe that the impact of these decisions is confined to Iraq,

but Iraq is only one front in the global war against radical Islamic

jihadists. This is a war without boundaries. This is a war that poses

the greatest challenge to our generation.

I will quote al-Zawahiri in his own words. He describes this fight in

this way:

`` . . . Afghanistan and Iraq are the two most important fields for

confronting the contemporary Crusader war. Therefore, the Muslim nation

should support the mujahidin in these two countries with all its

power.''

Those are al-Zawahiri's own words. He talks about the war in Iraq as

being central. He added that Iraq ``is the gateway to the liberation of

Palestine and the restoration of the Islamic Caliphate.''

Iran's leader has echoed similar views. He stated, we will soon

experience a world without the United States; and he goes on to state,

we must prepare ourselves to rule the world.

The enemy understands what is at stake. We must, also.

Once the retreat has started, where will it stop? Afghanistan? The

Persian Gulf? The entire Middle East? Once we have abandoned our allies

in Iraq, why should anyone in the world believe when we say that we

draw a line in the sand and say that we will never abandon them.

Lawrence Haas, a former communications director for Vice President

Gore, stated recently, `` . . . our enemies anticipate that Iraq will

be the latest chapter in the book of American defeatism. Our withdrawal

will embolden them to push ahead, confident that we

lack the stomach for confrontation, that our commitments mean nothing,

that they can win simply by outlasting us.''

A withdrawal in this generational fight will ensure that what is to

come will be even worse. While urging a withdrawal, some state that

they support the troops. But as leaders of the American Legion and the

Veterans for Foreign Wars have stated, you cannot separate the warrior

from the war.

My stepson, Douglas Lehtinen, and his wife, Lindsay, proudly served

as Marine pilots in Iraq. Lindsay will soon leave for a tour in

Afghanistan. Far from seeing their mission as hopeless, far from urging

withdrawal, they and their fellow service men and women are committed

to victory. They are so confident in that success that they are willing

to risk their lives to secure it.

They would tell you that victory can never be ensured but that we can

make defeat inevitable by giving our consent. The hopelessness from

which this resolution springs is alien to our American spirit and it

runs contrary to our history. What Thomas Paine said over two centuries

ago stands still today: These are the times that try men's souls. The

summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will in this crisis shrink from

the service of their country. But he that stands by it now deserve the

love and the thanks of every man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not

easily conquered. Yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder

the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

If you like the status quo in Iraq, Madam Speaker, then you vote

``yes'' on this resolution. If you favor a mission of success in

defeating the Islamic militant jihadists who are our enemies, then

please vote ``no'' on this resolution.