Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

While this resolution may be nonbinding, we will all be bound by its

consequences: the immediate and long-lasting consequences, those here

and in the combat zone.

Democrats continue to put forward an inherently contradictory message

with dire consequences, on one hand offering rhetorical support for the

troops and on the other, advancing a slow-bleed strategy that

methodically constricts those troops' ability to succeed.

From the testimonials we have heard, it is clear our troops believe

their mission is winnable. And the message they are routinely

delivering to us could not be more clear. They want a chance to get the

job done.

Ladies and gentlemen, our troops are not speaking off of a slickly

produced focus group-tested set of talking points. They are vocalizing

the overwhelming sentiments that exist on the front lines. We do a

disservice to the very troops we claim to support when we advance a

slow-bleed strategy that cuts off their lifeline of support.

We don't support them when we choke off the funding they need to

succeed. We don't support them when we erect political roadblocks

designed to deny them the equipment that they need to carry out their

mission. We don't support them when we tie their hands behind their

back. And we certainly don't support our troops when we attach strings

to the funding needed to ensure that when they need help, it is on the

way.

Yesterday the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee

unveiled this dangerous slow-bleed doctrine on a Web site,

movecongress.org, that is directly affiliated with some of the most

extreme elements of the antiwar left. This is a political machine

designed to elect and defeat politicians by using our troops as pawns,

and now they seek to deprive those same troops of the resources they

need to succeed in their mission. According to news reports, these

groups are prepared to spend $8.5 million on a national ad campaign to

target lawmakers who did not adhere to their extremist, defeatist

views.

This resolution is not an earnest expression of congressional

sentiment. It is phase one of the far left's plan to elect more of

their own. And all of this is for what? To send a message or settle a

score with our Commander in Chief? To raise campaign cash?

It turns out our worse fears are true; that this resolution is, in

fact, a first, dangerous step to cutting off the funds our troops so

desperately need. The remarks of the Defense Appropriations chairman,

the remarks of the Speaker with major national reporters lending

support to the slow-bleed doctrine; and next week senior House leaders

will convene to map out their strategy for maximizing their ability to

defund the troops while minimizing the political fallout.

Before you cast your vote today, you should see this resolution for

what it is: phase one of a political campaign to strip our troops of

the funds they need.

Right now, in some cave in Iraq or Afghanistan, information is being

located on a hard drive that talks about a plan for a new attack in

America. Right now, somewhere in the Middle East, teenage boys are

being groomed to be human bombs to further the aims of these Islamic

extremists. Right now, money is being transferred across a global

finance network to fund the attacks here on our soil or on other

allies' soil who believe in the types of freedom and open society we

enjoy, in Madrid, in London, in Hamburg, in New York, in Washington.

Regardless of how many Republicans cross the aisle and vote with the

Democrats or how many Democrats cross the aisle and vote with the

Republicans, tomorrow morning the terrorists will still wake up with

hate on their hearts, plotting the next scheme to bring down our

economy, to bring down our system of government, to bring down the

lives of innocents.

As recently as last August, as if we didn't learn from the events of

9/11, as recently as last August, there was still an attempt to blow up

10 more airliners using baby food as the means for bringing on the

explosive device.

Resolutions like this do nothing to stop that type of hate. They only

send the wrong signals to the men and women on the front lines for all

of us.