Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the

brave men and women in our military. Thank you, and thank you to the

families who have made so many sacrifices.

Today we are taking the first step towards defeat. No one likes where

we are today, but our goal should be success, not to accept the defeat

the Democrats are leading us towards.

I am very disappointed that the new Democrat leadership will not

allow a true debate on what should be our focus today: what can we do

to help achieve success in Iraq, and what metrics should we use to

measure that success. That is the debate we should be having on the

floor this week. Our military, our children, our fellow citizens, and

the people of Iraq deserve nothing less.

Instead, this Democrat leadership is telling the brave men and women

who serve in our military that their efforts have not been good enough

and that they do not think they deserve the tools to fight this war.

We've been safe in the United States since September 11, 2001. But

that is only because the Bush Administration and Congress and our brave

troops took the fight to the terrorists. But it is by no means over.

The United States remains a Nation at war. It's hard for Americans who

do not have loved ones in the military to remember that sometimes.

We are not safe simply because we have not seen an attack on U.S.

soil since September 11, 2001. We are safer today because of the

professionals of the worldwide network of intelligence, military and

law enforcement officials who continue to pressure and strike al-Qaeda

and its followers.

September 11, 2001 showed us the danger of Islamic terrorism. It also

taught us that we can't wait for them to come to us. We have to go to

the root cause of terrorism and sever the root.

We are blessed with an outstanding military that has taken the battle

to the enemy. It is very important that we take the fight to them in

places where fortunately every American carries a gun--rather than on

the streets of New York, Washington or Wichita, KS. And make no

mistake, Iraq is where the terrorists have to come to fight.

Our most important duty as Members of Congress is to protect our

Nation from ever experiencing the lesson of 9/11 again. For that

reason, we must continue to focus on improving our national security,

our homeland security and our intelligence systems. Today's resolution

does the opposite and sends the exact message the enemy wants to hear.

Our enemy is not going away. The war in Iraq is a tough one, as is

the overall Global War on Terror, GWOT. That is what the terrorist have

promised in their letter, written by Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Just because it is tough does not mean that it is not worthwhile. The

Democrat approach is dangerous and naive. We cannot put our heads back

in the sands. Our enemies are ready to strike. Leaving Iraq will not

mean the end to our troubles or to our enemy's plans.

Ayman al-Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's chief deputy, has stated again

and again that Iraq is the centerpiece of Al Qaeda's strategy to

establish dominance in the Middle East and beyond. A July 9, 2005

letter from al-Zawahiri listed al Qaeda's objectives in Iraq. Let me

remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle what those

objectives are:

1. Expel Americans from Iraq.

2. Establish an al Qaeda ``emirate'' in Iraq.

3. Extend a jihad from Iraq to secular states neighboring Iraq.

4. Clash with Israel.

Senator Feingold and many other Democrats can't wait to pull out of

Iraq and have introduced legislation to that effect. While I would like

nothing more than to see our men and women home safely, I know that

pulling out now would be a disaster for U.S. security and would only

mean that those men and women would have to go back to the Middle East

to fight a stronger, recharged enemy. Because the enemy knows that all

he has to do is make life difficult for a couple of years and the

United States will back down in retreat.

In this resolution, where is the Democrat plan for success, where is

their plan to fight terrorism? What is the Democrat plan to stop al

Qaeda from turning Iraq into a base of operations for worldwide

terrorism if we leave? What is the plan to deal with Iran, who has

already targeted the Shia majority, when they fund allies against

Israel, America, you and me? These are the questions the American

people need answers to.

Unfortunately, we have seen how the Democrats respond to terrorism,

to those whose stated goal is to kill Americans and destroy our Nation.

Their response is to ignore the problem and hope it goes away.

September 11, 2001 was not the first time this enemy attacked us--there

were numerous attacks preceding that horrible day--the first World

Trade Center bombing in 1993, the 1998 bombing of our embassies in

Tanzania and Kenya, and the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000. Our

enemies are looking for signs that we will resume that attitude of

ignorance. Today my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are

telling our enemies that the United States does not have the

wherewithal to fight the Global War on Terror. In fact, today's

resolution will carry no weight--except with our enemies.

Let me put this war in perspective. On June 6th, 1944, General Dwight

David Eisenhower sent 156,000 allied troops ashore in Normandy in the

D-Day invasion. That is about 7,000 more troops than we will have in

Iraq after the surge.

Now, Eisenhower was coming off of three pretty rough years in North

Africa. The campaign there displayed the serious shortcomings in the

Allies' ability to diplomatically engage the Vichy French, establish

and maintain lines of communication and hold terrain in key locations.

The Allied Forces were forced to retreat from engagements with the

Germans in battles like the Kasserine Pass.

What if Congress, after assessing the difficulties in the North

Africa Campaign, called on President Roosevelt to tie Eisenhower's

hands? What if they asked Ike to pare back the D-Day landing party

because it was just too risky?

We didn't have that problem because in 1944 Congress, like President

Roosevelt, knew that we were fighting to secure the future of the

world. After reading this resolution, I am convinced that the Democrats

have yet to grasp the importance of today's struggle.

What will happen if we pull out now? What will the Middle East look

like?

Iraq will become utter chaos, violence will only increase and

terrorists will have an unchallenged base of operations. It is likely

that Shia extremists would dominate Iraq. Iran is eager for this to

happen so that it can control Iraq. This is extremely worrisome.

President Bush was correct when he labeled Iran one of the axes of

evil. We know that Iran is gaining

the capabilities to become a nuclear power. Iran is also collaborating

with many radical Islamist groups, including Hezbollah and Hamas. With

Iraq also under its thumb if the U.S. pulls out, this could cause a

regional war that threatens Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel. It is hard

to see how the U.S. could avoid being drawn into such a conflict. This

would put our troops in an even graver situation than they are today,

with less hope for success. It also will reverberate through our

economy at home, with skyrocketing oil prices.

The Democrats need to understand the reverberations of defeat.

House Republicans take our role in Iraq seriously, and we want to see

success. Our leadership has called on the Speaker to appoint a

bipartisan select oversight committee to monitor and implement the

effectiveness of the President's new strategy. Instead of taking this

responsible suggestion, what is their response? Spending a week on a

do-nothing resolution to embarrass the President and encourage our

enemies. Even in the majority, they are still more comfortable with

being the party of ``no'' rather than the party that governs.

Republicans on the other hand have a plan, because we know that

success in Iraq means a safer, more secure America. We have proposed

strategic benchmarks to measure our effectiveness. We are prepared to

work with the Democrats to construct a plan for success in Iraq. The

Democrat leadership will not allow us to present our plan this week

because they do not wish to see success in Iraq, they want to pull out

despite its effects on Iraq and the United States. We need to support

our military, our new Secretary of Defense, and our Commander-in-Chief

as they work to achieve success in Iraq and the Global War on Terror.

I leave you with a question a constituent asked me recently: If the

Democrats get their wish and we pull out of Iraq without attempting to

achieve victory, what happens the next day? Unfortunately, we know that

answer because our enemies have made it clear: they bring the fight to

the United States.