Madam Speaker, I rise today not because I want to take

part in this debate, but because I am ashamed that this Congress is

engaging in it at all.

I've heard a lot of posturing so far this week. I've heard a lot of

hyperbole and a lot of revisionist history. I've also heard some things

that just don't mesh with reality. I don't think that everything my

colleagues say is completely honest. So for a moment, let's be honest--

because that is the least we owe to our constituents and to the men and

women who are fighting this war.

I am willing to admit that if Congress knew in 2002 what it knows

today it might not have voted to authorize the war. Knowing that Saddam

Hussein apparently did not have weapons of mass destruction, Congress

might have preferred to contain him, perhaps bomb him, strengthen

international sanctions, and work with our allies in the region to

undermine his regime.

But we can't go back to 2002 and redo that vote. We have to deal with

the situation that is currently before us. And what is before us right

now is a Congressional resolution that undermines our troops while they

are in the middle of fighting a war that Congress sent them to fight. I

do not understand why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle

don't see that.

For just a moment, I want to ask my colleagues to put themselves in

the positions of the thousands of soldiers on the ground in Iraq. What

would you think if you learned that the very people who sent you to

fight this war are now saying that they don't support what you are

doing? On the ground in Iraq, there are two things that keep you going:

the thought of returning home to your family and the knowledge that you

are doing something to protect your nation from terrorism. But if

Congressional Democrats have their way today, they will take away from

our soldiers the support of their Congress and of their country. What a

terrible message to send to these brave soldiers.

For just a moment, put yourself in the shoes of the terrorists. What

would you think when you heard the U.S. Congress is voting against the

war? You would think you were winning. You would be encouraged by the

news. You would think that everything Osama Bin Laden had said about

Americans had been true all along. You would think that Americans

cannot stand bloodshed and will cower from the fight. You would think

that they don't have the stomach for a long-term battle and if the

terrorists just hold on, the United States will eventually leave with

its tails between its legs. What a terrible message to send at the

exact moment that we are preparing to send more troops into battle.

At some point, my colleagues across the aisle have to let go of the

fact that their newfound opposition to the War in Iraq is popular in

their districts and act in the best interests for the future of our

Nation. This resolution isn't a diversion, a side-show, or even a shot

across the bow. It is a dangerous message to send.

I don't say any of this lightly and I don't say it for political

reasons. I say it because I mean it. In 2006, I was the only Republican

to vote against the rule when my party tried to embarrass Mr. Murtha.

Then, I thought that my party was playing games with the war and I

refused to support that effort. Today, I think that the other party is

playing games with the war and I refuse to have any part of this.

I would rather we consider a motion to pull all of our troops out of

Iraq immediately than vote on this Democrat resolution that undermines

our troops while at the same time puts them in harm's way. This

resolution is the worst of all worlds.

My final thought today is that it is clear to many of us that this

resolution is simply a Democratic attempt to embarrass President Bush.

My friends across the aisle know they cannot impeach him. They know

they cannot change the fact that many of them voted for the War in

Iraq. And most of them recognize the dangers of voting to defund the

war. So instead, they are trying to embarrass the President.

I say fine, embarrass the President. Send him a message that you are

now in charge. Remind him that voters demanded change last November. Do

whatever you need to do, but don't undermine our troops in the process.

Leave them out of your plans for payback because they did nothing to

attract your anger or frustration.

Madam Speaker, what we are doing today is wrong. We're better than

this. We're smarter than this. We're above using the war, and our

troops, for political gain. What the Democrats are doing with this

resolution is not just intellectually dishonest, it is morally

bankrupt.