Madam Speaker, due to my recovery from

a medical procedure, I regret that I am unable to participate in the

debate on the resolution that is before the House of Representatives

today. The Iraq War Resolution offered by the Democratic majority is

nothing more than a political exercise, and does nothing to support our

troops or help solve the issues that we are facing in Iraq. The

resolution offers no solutions or recommendations, but instead

criticizes an action that is already underway. As ranking member of the

Subcommittee on Military Readiness in the House Armed Services

Committee, I am open to supporting legislation that actually presents

solutions to stabilizing Iraq. Unfortunately, this resolution does not

provide anything other than criticism, and I would have opposed this

resolution if I had been in Washington, DC for the vote.