Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that under our Speaker's leadership,

Congress today is voicing the will of the American people in opposition

to the Administration's deployment of more U.S. military personnel to

Iraq. Voters made it clear in November that they do not support the

administration's current strategy. It is time that Congress act to

bring U.S. policy in line with reality.

I opposed the initial resolution authorizing the President to invade

Iraq, because I felt that the administration had failed to exhaust

diplomatic remedies and allow the U.N. weapons inspectors to finish

their job. Since the invasion, however, I have supported funding the

war effort to ensure that our troops on the ground have the equipment

and support that they needed. But increasing troop levels and failing

to question the President's policy is a disservice to our courageous

men and women in uniform. We cannot keep asking them to put their lives

on the line every day for objectives that have become increasingly

unclear.

The President declared ``mission accomplished'' in May 2003, and in a

sense he was right. Saddam Hussein and Iraqi weapons of mass

destruction are no longer a threat to our nation. The Iraqi people have

held free elections and drafted a constitution. The violence we see in

Iraq today is based in sectarian conflict--it has become a civil war.

The outcome depends not on the American will to stay in the fight, but

on the will of the Iraqi people to forge their own future. We cannot do

it for them.

Troop surges in the past have not worked. No number of American

troops in Iraq can fix what is essentially a political problem. The

only surge I support is a surge of diplomacy. It is time to bring our

brave young men and women home from Iraq. Their job there is done, and

their skills and dedication can be better used on the real fronts of

the war on terrorism, both domestic and abroad.