I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this nonbinding

resolution. This is not even an honest debate that we are holding here;

we didn't have an open rule. This is the wrong resolution; it sends the

wrong message to our troops, to our enemies and to our allies.

Today, like many Members of Congress do on a regular basis, I visited

Walter Reed. While I was there today, I visited with a young man from

my district. He had severe injuries. As I sat and talked to him, his

empty eye socket teared. He had damage to his face. He had horrific

damage to his arm that he used to protect his face. He was in a Humvee

when an IED exploded, and he actually turned the Humvee towards the IED

to protect the other men in the Humvee. His sacrifice is incredible.

I talked to another young man from Pennsylvania who had been on three

tours in Iraq, and on his third tour, while training, he lost his hand.

I also spoke to a young man from Texas, only 20 years old; and this

young man had severe injuries, specifically to his arm.

So we all know that the cost of war is very high. Many of us Members

of Congress have also attended funerals and wept with mothers and

fathers, families. People in my age group look at these young soldiers

and they are the age of our kids. It touches our hearts, and we know

the sacrifices that are made are incredible. These people need to feel

the gratitude from the entire Nation, gratitude and respect. And I

believe that this resolution, again, sends the wrong message.

What is not being considered adequately in this country is the cost

of failure in Iraq. When we think about our enemies being emboldened,

when we think about the vast resources that our enemies will have

access to acquire biological and nuclear weapons, the horrific effects

are just almost immeasurable.

As I think about this cost of failure in Iraq, and indeed, on the

global war on terror, I think about how we Americans make an

assumption. We assume, most of us, when we go to bed at night that when

we wake up, tomorrow is going to be like today, that things are going

to go on like they have gone on and we will have the liberties and the

freedoms that we enjoy. But I would say this wonderful thing that we

have in the United States of America, these freedoms and liberties, are

very fragile. They are very fragile when we face radical jihadists that

would murder us,

thinking that it will take them straight to paradise.

We have to fight this war on terror. We have to win in Iraq. I talked

to a retired general yesterday, and I believe he said it all. He said,

``You're down there debating, aren't you? You're talking about the

united-we-quit resolution.'' I believe that we have a choice: United we

stand or united we quit, and our choice will echo down the halls of

history.