Madam Speaker, whether you are for

or against the war in Iraq, whether you think the administration has

done a good job or not, none of that, Madam Speaker, is the subject of

this resolution. The issue that we are here debating now is whether or

not we support the reinforcements that the Commander in Chief has sent

to Iraq.

At the request of the commanders on the field, the Commander in Chief

made the decision to send the requested reinforcements to Iraq. Many of

them are already there, Madam Speaker. Those fine men and women have

already been sent to Iraq.

The tragic effect of this resolution is to sabotage the morale of our

troops and to broadcast to our enemies that Congress does not support

our soldiers' mission.

Our Nation's troops are the bravest and most dedicated men and women

on this Earth. They are risking their lives every single day to

preserve our freedom and to ensure the safety of all Americans. They

are not letting us down. We cannot let them down.

Again, Madam Speaker, the issue here is not whether you support or

you oppose the war. It is whether you support our troops.

Every American, Madam Speaker, every American should agree that it is

in our Nation's best interest to ensure that Iraq does not fall into

the hands of terrorist groups or of a terrorist state like Iran. The

consequences of that happening, the consequences of that happening,

would be catastrophic for the region, for our allies in the area such

as Israel, Afghanistan, Jordan, Egypt, and others, and for the United

States of America. We cannot pretend, we cannot pretend, that this ill-

timed resolution expresses anything other than a rejection of our

troops' mission.

Our troops deserve much better than this. What our troops deserve,

Madam Speaker, is our unwavering support. I refuse to let them down,

and that is why I will be voting against this resolution.