Madam Speaker, first and foremost, I stand and I

hope we all stand in support of our troops. But I also rise today in

opposition to H. Con. Res. 63. While I believe that we all share the

same goal of winning this war on terror and bringing our brave young

men and women home, I regret that this bill before us today absolutely

will not lead to that goal. Nobody wants this war to end more than

those fighting in it and we need now to do what it takes to bring our

brave men and women home, but to bring them home in victory. If we

don't achieve victory, the consequences are going to be disastrous for

the progression of freedom all over the world, and instead of taking a

step forward, we would be taking multiple steps backward.

So what is the point of this resolution? Is it going to block the

troop surge? Absolutely not. Will it end the war? Not a chance. Will it

help our chances of achieving victory? Absolutely not. This resolution

will demoralize our troops who are sacrificing themselves for us today

and tonight, and this resolution will give comfort to an enemy. This

resolution puts politics before the lives of our brave soldiers and

there is no way in the world that I can support it. The only chance we

have for victory is to support the President's troop escalation. It's

not a sure thing, but it's our best chance for victory. These added

troops will help us secure Baghdad, stabilize the area, and accelerate

the training necessary for the Iraqis to stand on their own. Only after

these things happen can we leave Iraq the way we should and that is

victorious.

I fully support our Commander in Chief, and I think he has much more

information than I have or any other Member or combination of Members

in regard to our war on terrorism, and particularly the war in Iraq. I

think President Bush is a godly person, intelligent and educated, and

cares for this country and cares for those who defend it. I will

continue to support him as long as he holds the title of Commander in

Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States of America. I heard the

President loud and clear in his State of the Union address on January

23, 2007. What I gleaned from his speech is that he is asking for

calendar year 2007 to complete the existing plan being implemented by

General Petraeus and those who serve under him. And at such time, he

fully expects the Iraqis to be in a position to defend their borders

and protect their people, resulting in an executive order hopefully to

bring the process of withdrawal of these American forces still

defending our Nation, to bring them home.

This resolution will absolutely undermine the efforts of our troops

in Iraq. I strongly oppose it.