Madam Speaker, I rise tonight in strong opposition to

this resolution and in strong support of our troops in the mission as

they fight the global war on terror.

I am really disappointed in the hollow resolution that does not match

the seriousness of this issue that we are debating. It appears

politics, not the safety of our Nation, is leading the way.

Not long ago, several of my Democratic colleagues were arguing we

need additional troops in Iraq. But now the President and the Iraqi

Study Group say, send more troops, and now the Democrats are against

it.

So when they say, now that they have the ability to and the

responsibility to govern, the majority has no plan for success. In

fact, the only plan is to cut funding for our troops on the ground in

Iraq.

Statement after statement from Members on the other side of the aisle

paint a very clear picture. This week's debate is merely paving the way

for future cuts in funding for Iraq. The realities of the current

global conflict demand a more responsible approach from this body.

We know that terrorist enemies are patient. They are calculating, and

they intend on attacking us again. They have stated that Iraq is the

central front for the global jihad, yet expelling America from Iraq is

merely the first step in their strategy.

We also know that leaders of the terrorist organizations have ordered

their followers to extend their jihad throughout the region and the

world. So it is clear that the attacks on our country and the citizens

will not stop if the troops pack up their bags and return from Iraq.

The terrorists will follow us back to our America.

A long list of terror attacks took place long before 9/11 and long

before we entered Iraq and overthrew Saddam Hussein.

I, like everyone else, want our troops to come home as soon as

possible. However, with shortsighted political calculations made in

this body that may cause us to lose that war, terrorist groups will

only be encouraged to expand their efforts.

In addition to the terrorist groups who are watching this debate and

our actions in Iraq, we also know that Iran will see that America is

buckling to our political reactions to this issue. Not only does Iran

stand to benefit from increased instability in the region, but seeing

America retreat in the face of military obstacles will only embolden

that rogue regime to question America's resolve.

While we can disagree on whether to send reinforcements, we must all

agree that the consequences of losing the battle on the global war on

terrorism is catastrophic and far-reaching.

America must not be a Nation where our school buses, our malls, our

neighborhoods, become the battlefields for the war on terrorism.

Therefore, we should be saying we will not retreat, we will not back

down from this fight. We should stand 100 percent behind our troops and

give them the tools and support necessary to get the job done. Our

security depends on it.

Unfortunately, this resolution fails on each front. This resolution

does not put forth a successful strategy for victory, and the

resolution does not show our troops that they have our full support.

In fact, for the last 2 or 3 days, you have not heard one solution

offered by the other side. You have not heard one solution offered of

what happens if the President is right. This is too important of an

issue for us to be backing down from and to be having silly political

debates.

To the contrary, this resolution only serves to score political

points and embarrass the Commander in Chief during a time of war. It

does so while, at the same time, weakening the morale of our troops.

Fighting and winning the war is serious business. It requires our

President, our military leaders, our elected officials to make

important decisions, tough decisions. Yet making tough decisions is

what the American people expect their Representatives to do.

Therefore, I call on my colleagues to reject this resolution, end the

political stunts, take seriously our responsibility to govern and to

ensure the safety and the security of the American people.

This has been a rock fight. This is not a place for a rock fight.

This is a place for serious deliberation to make sure that we keep

America safe, both today and in the future.

I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution.