Mr. Speaker, I want to first say, since I am coming at this

point in this time, that I am a Republican who opposes this resolution.

Most importantly, because this resolution is nonbinding, I am one of

the ranking members on the Appropriations Committee who will fight to

make sure that, no matter what, funds are not restricted or reduced or

cut from the men and women in harm's way on behalf of this country in

the future days, regardless of what is said on this floor.

I want to make some general observations. First, the war on terror is

the worst-named war in the history of our country. We are at war with

Islamic jihadists, fundamentalists, radicals. We need to be more clear

as to who we are fighting. Frankly, my view is that this is a religious

conflict. People may ask in Tennessee or Texas, why are we involved?

Well, for the first 1,350 years of this religious conflict we were

not involved. But history shows that a man named Qutb, the Wahhabi

leader, a radical, over 40 years ago, came to this country, was

educated, went back and indoctrinated a man named Azzam and taught a

man named bin Laden that Western liberalism, freedom, self-government

would actually bring about apostasy or ungodliness.

That is the truth. He indoctrinated the Sunni radicals that your way

of life, self-determination, would create ungodliness, and that it must

be stopped, and at that point we were brought into this religious

conflict, the split there in the Arab and Persian world created by the

1970s, organizations in Iran that overthrew the Shah,

and it gave them the first Islamic state when Ayatollah Khomeini was

brought back in 1978, and, unfortunately, our leaders in the country

helped bring that about in the late 1970s.

Khomeini took over, and within a few months they took our hostages in

Tehran. That was a low point in this country's history and my life, and

from 1978 forward 30 times our interests have been attacked around the

world, and twice they have been attacked domestically in the United

States.

It is important to remember this. We are at war with Islamic

jihadists. Al-Zarqawi and Zawahiri were talking while al-Zarqawi was

still alive, and he said we need to expand the caliphate from Indonesia

to Morocco. They believe they can go north to Europe and all the way to

the former Soviet Union. This is where the Arabs have had influence,

this is their agenda.

It is interesting to me that this only became very difficult in the

last 12 months in Iraq. This week was the 1-year anniversary of the

Samara mosque bombing. That is when the sectarian violence broke out.

They are attacking each other. Moqtada al-Sadr's uncle is buried at

that mosque. He was killed by Saddam Hussein.

One year ago, they blew up that mosque in sectarian violence. What is

Moqtada al-Sadr doing today? He is fleeing. Why? Because he hears that

we are going to increase security, put more boots on the ground in

Baghdad. He is fleeing to Iran.

What does that say about all of this? Well, it says to me that we are

beginning to do the right thing. The region's leaders told us this week

partition of Iraq is not acceptable in the Arab world or the Persian

world or the region. A partition will not work. It will make things

worse. They also said ``a precipitous withdrawal will be

catastrophic.''

I remind my colleagues and the American people, we were not in Iraq

before September 11. We were not in Afghanistan before September 11.

This problem is not going to go away if we leave Iraq. This is a

generational challenge.

As a matter of fact, I will say this, and this may be the most

dramatic thing said on this floor, and I am briefed at a pretty high

level. I believe we haven't been attacked domestically since September

11 for two reasons. One, we are better than we have ever been at

intelligence again, and I am glad.

Two, they don't want to see us united like they saw us after

September 11. Our enemies love the dissent and the division. They do

not want to see us come together again, because when we do we are the

best in the world.

Five points, Iraqi troops are showing up, progress is being made.

This morning, a story out, several Iraqi battalions now exceed the 75

percent measurement on participation. For them that is very good.

Two, reinforcement is what this is. It is not a surge. The spread on

how many troops we have had over the last several years is from 136,000

to 160,000. We are down to the lower level. This is going to bring us

back to the upper level, about what we had when the elections were

held. It is not a surge, it is reinforcement.

Three, the commanders tell us that reinforcement will, quote, will

save lives and reduce violence. Reinforcements militarily, always there

is a grid that shows that reinforcements save lives and reduce

violence.

Four, there are two tracks here. One is troop strength and security.

The other is diplomacy. You will see in the coming days diplomacy break

out in the region. I say to all my colleagues who have great concern,

that are afraid we are not talking to Iran and Syria, just stay with

us. I believe you will see dialogues at every level take place in the

region in the coming weeks, and I have been meeting with some of the

administration officials.

Then let me say this, and I know what the distinguished majority

leader said, and I respect him, and I believe many, many people, if not

everyone in this House, have good intentions. If this resolution is

followed by a funding cut, more Americans will die, and the sacrifices

to date will be lost. We must do better, but we better not retreat in

Iraq.

Too much is at stake. Our problems are not going away. Let's not be

foolish. Let's not retreat from this challenge. Let's stand together

and unite for the fight of our lives. It is a generational struggle,

and we must pull together and meet in defense of liberty and our way of

life.