Mr. Speaker, this is a pretty important

debate, and I have to tell you I am a little confused by my friends'

resolution. It is a very complex problem.

When you look at the problem in Iraq today, you have really two

distinct problems. One is the ethnosectarian violence that is self-

sustaining now in Baghdad. It was a precursor to al Qaeda activity to

actually create conflict between the Sunnis and the Shias, and

unfortunately, it has raised to a level that it is self-sustaining.

And you have an al Qaeda-Sunni insurgency happening west of Baghdad

that certainly warrants our attention, and the troops there have called

for reinforcements. They said, give us reinforcements, we need them

badly. Al Qaeda is settling in to make safe haven here.

And part of the plan or the surge in fact says that we are going to

reinforce those soldiers who are fighting al Qaeda, and they have asked

to be reinforced.

The simplicity of the resolution concerns me greatly. I am not in

favor of sending American troops, the other 16,000, into the streets of

Baghdad to intervene in the sectarian violence. I am not.

I am in favor of supporting the soldiers who have asked and should

receive reinforcements fighting al Qaeda in the west.

This resolution really makes no difference in that fight. It makes no

difference in the complexities and how we win and get our soldiers

home. This resolution does not bring one soldier home. This resolution

does not make one soldier safer. This resolution does not bring to

justice one terrorist. This resolution offers not one alternative.

I think we made some devastating mistakes in Iraq: The extent of our

de-Baathification, and what that has meant for us winning the peace,

the dismissal wholesale of military units and what that has meant to

our ability to sustain peace, the shuttering of nearly 300 state-owned

enterprises and what that has done for unemployment and not allowing us

to sustain the peace, our failure to focus our national power on

solving some of these basic problems.

We, in fact, and this is up to us, have allowed politics to creep

onto the field of battle, and that has created some very real problems

for us and our soldiers. We have seen, because of that politics that

has crept into the battlefield in Iraq and what that has meant, it has

created some inefficiencies. I, the other day, have counted up 12

different groups or agencies or Departments that have some ability to

provide reconstruction money in Iraq. Twelve. That is a problem.

Some conflicting policies. Our soldiers will tell you that they feel

that they are handcuffed. They at least have one hand cuffed behind

their back because of the politics that have crept in

that changed the way they are allowed to engage the enemy as they see

him and protect themselves. Politics crept onto the battlefield.

The turf battles between the State Department and DOD, I wish they

didn't exist. We all know they do. We took a very large, bureaucratic,

civilian organization and set it down in the middle of Baghdad and

wondered why it has some inefficiencies. But these are things that we

can change. We can do that.

And my mother told me that if you are going to tell me what I am

doing wrong, you better be prepared to tell me how to do it right.

The resolution before us today says nothing of an alternative. We

have soldiers who are getting up every day engaging themselves in the

fight for liberty and defense and going after al Qaeda targets in the

west and trying to find al Qaeda elements locating and spurring on to

self-sustaining ethno sectarian violence. It does nothing to tell them

that we, A, support them and, B, will give them all the tools and make

the changes that we know we can to make it possible for them to come

home to their families soon.

This afternoon I am going to do that. I am introducing a resolution,

it is fairly comprehensive, that will allow us to focus our national

power without sending 20,000 troops to Iraq. It will help target the

unemployment that we know is fueling terrorism in Iraq today. Clear

rules of engagement for our troops, calling for the repatriation of the

one to two million Iraqis who are middle class Iraqis, their doctors

and lawyers and engineers and their teachers who fled Iraq in this

turmoil to engage our allies to get them back and invest them in the

future of Iraq.

What disturbs me most, Mr. Speaker, about this resolution, is its

clear purpose is to divide those of us in this Chamber.

As I said earlier, I don't support the surge in Iraq that targets

sectarian violence in Baghdad. I think that must have an Iraqi face for

that to be successful, and I think we can provide logistics and command

and control and we can provide combat air support and special operation

support to make them successful as they move through Iraq. I think we

can do that.

But this resolution does nothing to bring Members together to solve

this problem. If you win this vote today, and this passes, we will have

solved not one problem for one soldier who gets up this morning hoping

and praying that he can accomplish his mission and come home to his

family, not one. It truly seeks to find the differences of those of us

in this Chamber on how we move forward in Iraq. There is nothing

constructive in that, nothing constructive in that.

There is a young soldier that I met, I visited him down in Brooks

Army Medical Center. He asked that his leg be amputated so that he

could have full range of motion so he could pass the physical training

test for the United States Army and go back to Iraq. And he was going

through all that very painful process of getting it fitted and going

through the physical training and trying to rehabilitate himself.

And as I got ready to leave, I said, is there anything that I can do

for you as a Member of Congress? And he turned and said yes, sir, there

is. Just don't give up on us.

Now, if this soldier can believe in this mission, and he can get up

every day and fight through the sweat and the pain and the anguish of a

lost limb so that he can get back in the business, if he can roll up

his pant leg every day and fit that prosthesis, isn't there a way, and

shouldn't we do better and roll up our sleeves to work together to find

a solution? We got in this together, we must get out of it together.

We need to stop the division that this resolution brings to this

House and start working together. Our soldiers deserve better. America

deserves better. The future of this country and safety and security

deserve better.