I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to address H. Con. Res. 63, disapproving of the

decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007 to deploy

20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq.

This resolution essentially has, by my interpretation, three

sections. It has the first section, which speaks in support of our

troops; and then it has the second section, disapproving of the mission

of 20,000 of the troops, which is a little bit of an inconsistency. We

are saying we support the troops, but we don't support what you are

trying to do.

But the most important part of this resolution is the third section

shown here in white. There is nothing there. No plan.

So the authors of this resolution are essentially saying, we don't

approve of the President's plan but we have no plan to deal with this

challenge.

Ladies and gentlemen, we won the war in Iraq. What we are struggling

to win now is the peace, establishing a peaceful government that can

run this country. And we have very determined opponents seeking to make

sure that chaos reigns in that country and we do what this resolution

is leading us to do, which is essentially to leave.

Indeed, a senior member on that side of the aisle recently said in

the press that, ``This is the bark, and the bite is coming.'' We

supposedly support the troops, but what is next is no funding for the

troops; that this Congress under this new leadership is going to

exercise the power of the purse and cut off the flow of money.

But, ladies and gentlemen, my colleagues, this is not Vietnam. The

war in Iraq in not going to go away. It is going to continue to be a

problem. If we do withdraw our troops, as many in this room want us to

do, the war on terror will continue.

We had a meeting today with the Ambassador from Jordan and the

Ambassador from Egypt asking us not to withdraw; that we have to stay

and persist and to try to establish a peaceful regime there. And they

have their reasons, because they know this is a component of the war on

terror. And the war on terror is a bad term; it is a war on radical

fundamentalist jihadist Islam. And these jihadists are not going to

stop coming at us. Indeed, since over the last 4 years, there have been

attack after attack after attack in Bali, in Spain, in London, and they

are going to keep coming after Western interests, because their goal

and their agenda is to defeat the West, to defeat everything we stand

for, and to ultimately establish a global fundamentalist Islamic

regime.

I oppose this resolution. I am going to vote against it, and I

encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the

same. The President's plan was recommended to us in the Iraq Study

Group. It is amazing, many of the people who are saying they are going

to vote for this supported the Iraq Study Group, and the Iraq Study

Group recommended many of the components that are in the President's

plan. We need to give this time to work. I know the American people are

losing patience in this conflict, but I also know the stakes in this

conflict are huge. And if we fail, the consequences could be huge to

the region, they will be huge to the world, they will be huge to the

American people and our children and our grandchildren.

So I strongly encourage a ``no'' vote on this resolution