Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the discussion on Iraq that is

taking place in this Chamber, across this country, in classrooms,

coffee shops, living rooms and across back fences. This resolution asks

whether the House of Representatives believes with regard to the war in

Iraq that doing more of the same is a correct strategy to adopt.

Since this war began, 3,125 American soldiers have died and 23,417

have been wounded. There have been over 100,000 Iraqi casualties and

nearly $500 billion has been spent. We have tried troop surges before

in this war and we have seen the results. In November of 2004, the

United States increased the troop levels by approximately 18,000. And

guess what happened? Insurgent attacks went up by 17 percent. Did that

surge work? No.

In June of 2005, we increased troop levels again, this time by 21,500

troops. Guess what happened? Insurgent attacks went up 29 percent. Did

that surge work? No.

If we allow to surge troop levels again, by how much can we expect

insurgent attacks to rise this time? Einstein once suggested that

insanity is doing something over and over and over again and expecting

different results.

Mr. Speaker, I voted against going to war in Iraq, but ever since the

President committed our first soldier, I have done everything in my

power to support our troops and give them equipment to keep them safe.

Our warrior soldiers have done everything we have asked of them and

more, and I remain committed to our troops until the very last soldier

leaves Iraq, and I will do whatever it takes to protect our soldiers.

But putting an additional 37,000 American troops in harm's way when

there hasn't been a change in strategy is not how we as a country

support our troops.

Last November, the American people spoke loud and clear. They said

that the current tactics in Iraq weren't working and they don't support

more of the same. An escalation of troops will not quell the violence,

but will lead to increased violence, more American casualties and a

further destabilized Iraq.

There is a moment when wisdom requires change, and I believe that the

time has come to say enough is enough. America's military involvement

in Iraq needs to draw to a close and it is time for the Iraqi people to

assume control over their own country.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting ``yes'' on this

resolution.