Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of

order.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor to visit a group

of folks gathered on the Mall as part of Camp Democracy, a nonpartisan

camp for peace, for democracy and for the restoration of rule of law.

Those who gathered are relentlessly working to promote peace and

justice. They bring great passion to our shared struggle. They have led

one of the most important and powerful grassroots movements in recent

memory, and because of the pressure they have applied and the eloquence

with which they have made the case, the immorality of the Bush Iraq

policy has been exposed.

Mr. Speaker, in a few months, our troops will have been in Iraq for

as long as their grandfathers fought in World War II. But unlike the

struggle against Nazism, this has been an unmitigated disaster, a

national tragedy and a moral outrage. More than 2,650 soldiers of our

own are dead, nearly 20,000 wounded by the Pentagon's own count and

countless more psychologically traumatized. And for what? So we could

make the world a more dangerous place and increase the terrorist

threat? So we could create more jihadists and inspire more hatred for

Americans among Muslim extremists? So we could foment a bloody civil

war and rip a nation apart at its seams, killing tens of thousands of

innocent civilians for the cause of their so-called liberation?

Like the people at Camp Democracy, I have been speaking out against

this war and this occupation even before they began. I have held

forums, forced votes on resolutions and joined demonstrators at rallies

across the country. Most recently, I introduced a bill that would

rescind the President's authority to use force in Iraq, authority that

was granted in 2002 under what we now know are false pretenses. I will

not give up this fight until every last American soldier has been

returned home to his or her family.

But even after that, we will have plenty of work to do, because Iraq

is only a part of the problem. The real problem is a foreign policy

that uses too much brawn and not enough brains. The real problem is an

approach to national security that says might is always right; that

says, when it doubt, shoot first and ask questions later. What we need

is to completely overhaul the way we handle global conflict and prevent

wars from starting in the very first place.

Working with the Friends Committee, working with WAND and working

with Physicians for Social Responsibility, I created the SMART Security

plan, which was introduced in the House in 2005. SMART would do just

what I was talking about. SMART stands for Sensible Multilateral

American Response to Terrorism. It emphasizes peacekeeping and

diplomacy instead of invasion and occupancy. It rejects war in all but

the most extreme circumstances. It fights terrorism with stronger

global partnerships and with sound diplomacy, with better intelligence,

with tough weapons inspections but without violating our civil

liberties and fundamental freedoms.

SMART would put more resources into securing loose nuclear material

and ensuring the United States lives up to the commitments we have made

in our Nation on nuclear nonproliferation. SMART would wean us off

Middle Eastern oil. It would invest in renewable energy technologies

instead of Cold War weapon systems that have outlived their usefulness.

SMART would dramatically increase development aid and debt relief for

the poorest countries in the world to combat the deprivation and

despair that often gives rise to terrorism in the first place. It

protects not by wreaking violent havoc around the world but by staying

faithful to the most honorable American values.

Armed conflict around the world is destroying our bodies and our

souls. I am particularly troubled by the devastating impact this war is

having on our children. Our children are the war's most tragic victims.

Children represent a disproportionate number of civilian deaths in

conflicts worldwide. And for many who survive, their education is

disrupted, their communities destroyed and their families separated.