Mr. Speaker, first let me just say I rise in total

opposition to this resolution. This is another resolution to deceive

the American people. This resolution completely distorts and ignores

the basis for this war and its costs.

This resolution never even mentions the more than, now,

unfortunately, 560 Americans and countless others who have died in this

war. This is really insulting, and it is insensitive.

It also leaves out any mention of weapons of mass destruction, which

was the rationale for this war. And it claims the war made the world a

safer place. That ignores reality.

We had choices. We had options. We did not have to go to war. In the

last year, for example, 72 Members of this House voted for my amendment

to the Bush administration's war resolution that would have rejected

the unnecessary rush to war and instead strengthened our commitment to

the United Nations inspections process.

Now we have a resolution today that celebrates this war but ignores

its cost, its cost to our soldiers, to our credibility, to our

children's future. This pattern of deception and distortion must end.

I tried to offer an amendment to this misleading resolution

yesterday. It just expressed our deep sorrow for all those who have

been killed in this war and pointed out the terrible toll this war has

taken on our own security. The Committee on Rules did not even allow my

amendment honoring the sacrifice of our troops or offering the truth

about the war. Once, again, the debate is being stifled.

What has happened to democracy in this body? Once again, this

administration and the Republican leadership are attempting to trick

the American people. And they are neglecting the very soldiers they

claim to honor, the men and women who need health care, proper

equipment, and veterans benefits, whose families need economic

security. We must call them out on this and vote against this

resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 577. This

resolution claims to support our troops, yet it fails to even mention

the over 550 American service men and women who have died in this

conflict.

It also fails to even mention the weapons of mass destruction what

were supposedly the justification for this war with its terrible cost

in lives, dollars, and security.

And its claims that this war has made the world safer. In fact, the

war in Iraq and the Doctrine of Preemption have made the world a more

dangerous place. This is a terrible resolution. And it is a trap.

This resolution completely distorts and ignores the basis for this

war.

In the fall of 2002, the Bush Administration told us that Iraqi

weapons of mass destruction posed a grave and gathering danger to the

United States and that we therefore supposedly had to go to war.

This resolution does not even mention this.

Now, the Administration's own chief weapons inspector, David Kay, has

said that there are no large stockpiles of chemical, biological or

nuclear weapons. He said, ``We were almost all wrong.'' Why isn't this

cited in the resolution before us? Leaving out the weapons of mass

destruction argument represents yet another lie of omission.

In fact, the truth is, not everyone was wrong.

Mohammed El-Baradei and Dr. Hans Blix, the U.N. inspectors, raised

real doubts about the Administration's rush to war.

And 72 members of Congress voted for my amendment to the use of force

resolution that would have rejected the unnecessary rush to war and

instead strengthened our commitment to the United Nations inspections

process.

Last March, before the first shots in the war were fired, I

introduced a resolution disavowing the Doctrine of Preemption because I

believed that preemptive first strikes in the absence of a proven

imminent threat go against both American values and American interests.

We had choices. We had options. We did not have to go to war.

Now we are on the verge of commemorating a year of war led by a

President who is proud to claim his record as a war president. In that

year over 550 American service men and women have died and over 3000

have been wounded, along with literally untold numbers of Iraqi

civilians.

This Republican resolution blatantly and shamefully disregards this

fact.

Some of us remember them today and their families. We also hope and

pray for the safe and swift return of all our armed forces who are

still in harm's way. As the daughter of a retired military officer, I

know what we owe to these men and women.

We owe them and their families economic security. And we owe them our

best efforts to create a safer world.

Now I tried to offer an amendment to this misleading resolution that

said two things.

First of all, my amendment expressed our deep sorrow and regret for

all those who have been killed in this war and extending our support to

their families in this moment of terrible loss.

As I said, the resolution as written, never mentions the more than

550 Americans who have died. How insulting and insensitive.

Second, my amendment addressed the new world order--or disorder--that

has been created by this war.

It stated: The war in Iraq and the Doctrine of Preemption on which it

is based have undermined long-standing alliances; weakened the

effectiveness of the United Nations; cost hundreds of American and

unknown numbers of Iraqi lives and billions of dollars; and have made

the world a more dangerous rather than a safer place.

We are not voting on this amendment today because the Rules Committee

did not allow my amendment honoring the sacrifice of our troops or

offering the truth about the war.

Once again, true debate is being stifled. What a shame and a

disgrace!

Once again, this Administration and the Republican leadership are

attempting to deceive the American people.

We must call them on it and vote against this resolution which does

not mention those who have been killed.

It does not mention the weapons of mass destruction that supposedly

were the justification for the war itself.

And it does not accurately portray the fact that this war and the

Doctrine of Preemption on which it is based have made the world a more

dangerous, rather than a safer place.

Is that the world that we want to turn over to our children?