Mr. Speaker, I rise first and foremost to thank

the men and women of the Armed Forces serving bravely in Iraq,

Afghanistan and literally all over the world. I supported the

resolution to authorize the war, and in the supplemental request I

continue to support those troops and their work, but I must express my

continued concerns about the safety of the troops and the haphazard way

the administration has proceeded in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, we have no end game in sight. Our exit strategy is

murky, and our efforts to help this fledgling democracy seem to be

going nowhere. When this war began last year, it became clear our

troops do not have the

life-saving body armor and vehicle armor they needed. Even with the

passage of the Iraq supplemental last November, there are still too

many soldiers at risk, and we are experiencing increasing reports of

street fire, mines and ambushes aimed at our troops. It is

unconscionable that they continue to lack the protective gear they

need.

On yesterday's evening news, Houston's CBS affiliate KHOU reported

there are still a number of Humvees in Iraq without bulletproof armor,

and I will include for the Record the news report. In fact, there are

Humvees on the streets of Houston that have more safety features than

the ones being used by our troops, according to the report. These

vehicles are intended to transport soldiers and defend them in the war

zone, and the last thing we should hear is soldiers' complaints that

their family's sedans are safer than the military's soft-sided Humvees.

A year ago today, we started a war to remove an evil man from power;

but in doing so, the lives of our troops are unnecessarily jeopardized

by sending them into harm's way without proper armor and underequipped

vehicles. Our troops are doing a dangerous job, and I hope the

administration will correct these problems.