Mr. Speaker, exactly 1 year ago the first bombs blasted

in Baghdad and the United States christened a shameful new military

doctrine, the preemptive war, against a regime that for all its vicious

cruelty had not provoked the United States or our allies.

We were told by the President that Iraq posed an imminent threat to

our national security with a link to al Qaeda, which is fiction. And

our own weapons inspector concluded that weapons of mass destruction

did not exist. Where was our intelligence? What were we working on?

After September 11, countries throughout the world clamored to give

the United States support in the global fight against terrorism. But

after bombing Iraq without multinational support, the United States

lost the moral authority we once enjoyed around the rest of the world.

Today, 1 year later, Iraq remains mired in chaos. It is becoming a

breeding ground for terrorists, nowhere near ready to assume the

responsibility of a democracy.

For this we have sacrificed nearly 600 American lives with thousands

more wounded; 27 today have already been killed in Baghdad with

hundreds injured. If this Congress wants to support the troops, we

should work to equip every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan with the

best equipment and supplies available, including hydration water

systems. We would ensure them the benefits they have been promised and

they deserve when they return home. But we do not talk about that in

this resolution.

Tomorrow I will introduce a resolution called Smart Security. Smart

Security is about prevention, not preemption. It sees war as a last

resort to be considered only after every diplomatic solution has been

exhausted.

It calls for more robust multilateral institutions to prevent

terrorism, manages international conflicts and promotes global

stability, since smart security is tough, pragmatic, and patriotic. It

is smart and it would keep America safe and it supports our troops.