Mr. Speaker, while I am a staunch and unwavering supporter

of our Nation's troops, I must rise in opposition to this resolution.

One year ago, the United States invaded Iraq, a unilateralist strike

approved by Congress because President Bush told us that Saddam Hussein

had weapons of mass destruction and was prepared to use them.

The Bush administration, in fact, assured the country that we faced

imminent danger.

Today, we know that President Bush and his advisors made dozens--

perhaps hundreds--of misleading statements about the threat posed by

Iraq. Yet H. Res. 557 makes no reference to weapons of mass

destruction, the leading justification for our supposed `'preventive''

strike at Saddam Hussein, other than to mention the use of such weapons

some 16 years ago.

This is an attempt by the Republican Party to rewrite history and

avoid accountability for their false claims about the nature of the

Iraqi threat. Nobody from the Democratic side of the aisle was allowed

to provide input on the resolution.

Let us remember: CIA Director George Tenet has admitted that U.S.

intelligence never told the White House that Iraq posed an imminent

threat; former Chief U.N. Weapons Inspector Hans Blix has stated that

President Bush disregarded any evidence suggesting that Iraq lacked

weapons of mass destruction; even David Kay, the Bush administration's

hand-picked head of the U.S. post-war weapons inspection effort, has

stated that the Iraq war ``was not worth it'' and recognized that

weapons of mass destruction `'don't exist.''

But instead of taking responsibility for its repeated deception,

Republicans now want to avoid any accountability for this misguided war

by claiming to honor our troops.

More than 550 Americans have been killed in the Iraq war and

occupation, and thousands more wounded, yet the Bush administration and

the Republican congressional leadership refuse to admit that they were

wrong.

I call for a full accounting of the events leading up to the war in

Iraq. Until then, the American people cannot fully trust what their

President tells them--especially when it comes to life and death

decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of our armed forces, but stand

opposed to this resolution.