Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise again today in opposition to the war in Iraq, a

position I have consistently held since the President first undertook

this misguided policy at the expense of our nation's men and women in

uniform and our domestic priorities. While I found myself in a relative

minority at the time I first voted in opposition, I find myself now

situated amongst a majority of the American people in addition to some

of the most knowledgeable and committed patriots this country has ever

known.

I am today opposed to H. Res. 861 and remain committed to a better

course, one that is in the interest of American foreign policy,

America's fighting men and women, America's future security and

American victory. The Resolution, which has been discussed, is flawed,

not only in substance, but in process. The decision to enter into and

remain involved in foreign conflict is one of the most serious

responsibilities the Framers of the Constitution granted to the

Congress at the drafting in Philadelphia. The Republican leaders in

this Congress have shirked their oversight responsibilities and have

denied a democratic process even in the debate over a nonbinding

resolution.

Throughout this conflict we have heard of shortages of supplies from

armor to protect the lives of our soldiers to reliable intelligence to

guide their mission. Surely the most devastating shortage has been the

lack of leadership in this conflict. The President has failed, since

the beginning, to chart a course for victory, to correct mistakes as

they have arisen and to secure that the ideals for which the American

forces are fighting are never compromised.

I rise in honor of the sacrifice that far too many men and women have

been called to make and in the hope that this conflict will find a new

direction, one which will support American victory, security and

justice. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of

the aisle to chart a better course and plan a better future for the

people of America and the people of Iraq.