Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the efforts of our

brave men and women in uniform fighting to protect our Nation in the

global war on terror. Today, some people are

trying to make this debate about politics or another opportunity to

convince some of our national media that our efforts in Iraq have not

been successful, these people are wrong in their facts and their

intent.

I recently led a delegation of members to Vietnam, India, Singapore

and Thailand. After meeting with three prime ministers and their

parliamentary leaders, I am ever more convinced of the need to stay the

course in Iraq and Afghanistan. One common theme came from each of my

meetings--the United States must win. It is a simple theme and a

powerful one. We cannot leave Iraq before the job is done. If the

terrorists who have invaded Iraq can prove to the world that they are

able to overcome the will of the American people and force our early

withdrawal, they can do that to any nation.

Mr. Speaker, we are the world's last remaining superpower. We are the

leader of democracy and the pinnacle of freedom. If bands of murderous

terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan can convince this body to abandon

our mission, they will have won. And they will not stop at simply

expelling America from Iraq. They will work to destroy the western

world, our values and our freedoms.

Our mission in Iraq has changed. Our forces easily defeated and

captured Saddam Hussein and his henchmen. Now, our mission is to finish

the job by building up Iraqi security forces and the Iraqi Government

so that they can defend and govern themselves. I believe President Bush

when he says, ``as Iraqis stand up, we will stand down.''

Today the Iraqi forces have gained great strength. There are now more

than twice as many members of the Iraqi Security Forces as there are

U.S. forces serving in Iraq. Iraqi forces are now a part of more than

90 percent of all operations in Iraq. With the complete formation of

the presidential cabinet, three free elections and the elimination of

al-Qa'ida leaders in Iraq, the global war on terror is indeed

progressing and advancing freedom and democracy across the world.

Mr. Speaker, our debate today is a useful one. It is an opportunity

to say to the world that we stand behind our troops 100 percent. This

debate shows that we support the mission of our American patriots.

Today, the United States Congress should pass this resolution and

demonstrate to the world, once again, our commitment to freedom and

democracy.