Mr. Speaker, the last two days the House

has debated for over 10 hours a politically motivated resolution on

Iraq. Not one word in this resolution will do anything to bring us one

step closer to success in Iraq, or one day closer to bringing our

troops home.

This resolution is not about the troops.

If it were, this resolution would actually do something to hold

accountable those responsible for the manipulation of pre-war

intelligence, the poor planning, the incompetence, and the

mismanagement that has brought us to this point in Iraq. This

resolution does nothing to give our troops a real plan that charts a

path toward victory and home.

Instead what we have is another attempt at re-writing history to buck

up fading support for this administration's failed status quo policies.

As even Secretary Condoleezza Rice has acknowledged, the

administration has made mistake after mistake when it comes to Iraq. It

is the military that has saved them, even as civilian policymakers have

scorned and marginalized senior combat generals who have criticized

them.

Last week's elimination of al-Zarqawi was a reminder of the skill and

determination of our men and women in uniform. It is our troops and

their families who have borne the brunt of sacrifice in this war, and

they continue to persevere despite the failures of this administration.

For the past 12 years, I have voted for every bill that supports our

troops and honors the sacrifices they and their families make in

defending our Nation. For every year of this war, I have voted for

every appropriations bill funding our troops, fighting to provide them

with the bulletproof vests and up-armored Humvees that they were sent

into Iraq without.

But the administration needs to understand that more of the same

P.R., rosier rhetoric, better stagecraft at another rally, or viciously

attacking generals who served on the ground in Iraq will not achieve

success in Iraq, nor bring us one step closer to bringing our troops

home.

The administration needs to wake up and stop taking the American

people for a spin.

Public confidence in this administration's handling of Iraq has

plummeted because the American people have seen through the rhetoric to

see the reality on the ground in Iraq.

No amount of publicity stunts and political posturing can change

that.

More of the same from the administration will not make our country

any safer from terrorists than we were on September 11, 2001. A poll

conducted by Foreign Policy magazine of our Nation's top 100 foreign

policy minds, liberal and conservative alike, found that 84 percent did

not believe that the U.S. was winning the war on terror. Sharing that

view was 71 percent of conservatives.

The status quo is not acceptable. We need a change. The

administration needs to take the ideological blinders off and

acknowledge the reality of the facts on the ground.

As GEN John Abizaid and Ambassador Khalilzad have stated, the reality

is that civil war is now a greater threat than insurgency.

Because of the regional destabilization that could follow, I do not

believe we can pull out of Iraq precipitously. But I cannot support

letting Iraq become an open-ended commitment without limit or end.

So instead of occupying themselves with defending their mistakes of

the past, the administration should focus instead on achieving real

measurable progress on the ground in Iraq so our troops can begin to

come home.