I want to thank my friend for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this rule, and I urge all

of my colleagues to vote it down. I deeply regret that this resolution

was not handled in a bipartisan manner. The Democratic side was not

consulted on this resolution, and the Republican leadership bypassed

its consideration before the Committee on International Relations. It

is simply unacceptable that not a single amendment was made in order,

no substitute is allowed; and there is no other way we on our side can

offer improvements to this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the country is at war. The men and women who serve are

Democrats and Republicans and Independents. The men and women who are

wounded are Democrats and Republicans and Independents. And, yes, Mr.

Speaker, the men and women who die are Democrats and Republicans and

Independents. The families grieving are Democrats and Republicans and

independents. Many of us have tried very hard for a long time to work

towards a bipartisan foreign policy decades ago and certainly since

September 11. The manner in which this resolution was crafted and the

way in which it is being considered under this rule is a slap in the

face of all those who have tried to conduct a bipartisan foreign policy

in the national interest. You on your side have neither a monopoly on

wisdom nor a monopoly on patriotism. You should have come to the

Democrats to craft a resolution honoring our troops, which would have

passed this body unanimously. You have created divisiveness at a time

when we need cohesion and unity. You have created divisiveness for no

reason except illusory partisan advantage. This is a flawed resolution,

flawed in its presentation, flawed in its procedure, flawed in its

partisanship. This is not a Republican tax bill to be handled only by

Republicans. This is a bill of national importance. Democrats,

Independents, and Republicans have a right to have an input, to say how

much we admire the courage and patriotism of our troops. You have

failed, and you have failed miserably.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the rule and to come forward with a

reasonable resolution supported across the political spectrum in this

body.