Mr. Speaker, I am not afraid we will lose the war in Iraq,

... in Iraq. I am deeply concerned we will lose the war in Iraq here at

home.

Our efforts to remove Saddam Hussein from power and help bring

democracy to the most troubled part of the world is a truly noble

effort that must succeed.

Whether you believe al Qaeda was in Iraq when the war began, they are

there now, and they think they can win because they believe we will

leave too soon, before Iraqis can defend themselves.

True, we got their prince. Al Zarqawi is dead, but his fellow

terrorists remain determined to succeed.

This resolution clearly links the war in Iraq with the war against

Islamist terrorists. Islamist terrorists is exactly who the 9/11

Commission said we are confronting. If you agree, vote for this

resolution and explain why. If you disagree, vote against the

resolution and explain why.

I support the rule. I support the resolution. I support our efforts

in Iraq, and I look forward to the 10 hours of debate.

When I ask individual Iraqis what is their biggest concern, it is not

the bombings, the lack of electricity or anything else other than this.

It is, and I quote, ``that you will leave us. That you will leave us

before we can grab hold of democracy and defend ourselves.''

I pray we will not let them down. I look forward to the 10 hours of

debate. I look forward to our being absolutely resolute in helping

Iraqis have an opportunity they have worked so hard to achieve.

In just 11 months, Iraqis have had three elections that put our

elections to shame. They have a new government. They only need more

time to develop their security, to defend themselves and a democracy

they dearly love.