Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately rise in opposition to this

rule because I believe it is a missed opportunity for this Congress to

substantively have a say in the most important issue facing our country

today and that is the course of the war in Iraq, but also our strategy

in combating global terrorism.

But instead of offering a real policy discussion, the Republican

majority today offers a political document just before the fall

elections.

My question to my friends across the aisle is very simple. What are

you afraid of? Why are you not allowing any other amendment to be

offered during this 10-hour debate? Why are you not allowing our side

to have an alternative resolution so we can get into the very troubling

aspects of this administration's conduct of war in Iraq and our

strategy on global terrorism.

Many of us have grave concerns about how this administration has

based its decisions in Iraq. These concerns are shared by many

Americans and our constituents throughout the country today. Yes, we

can kill Zarqawi, but are we defeating Zarqawiism?

Many of us today have grave doubts. Yet, instead of having an open

and honest debate, we get this charade. We deserve better. The American

people deserve better.

I encourage my colleagues to defeat this rule.