Mr. Speaker, day after day Members from across the

aisle have been coming to this floor to tell Americans that in their

opinion we are losing the war on terror. They say that Iraq is a

disaster, Gitmo is a gulag, and that our soldiers should have come home

yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, they have no shame. If they want policy change, fine.

But do not undermine our soldiers' efforts by going all out and selling

this as hopeless in order to try to score political points.

Did they think winning the war was going to be easy? No one ever told

them the endeavor would be without cost. Iraq is not a failure. Is it

tough? For heaven's sake, absolutely, yes, it is tough. We all knew

that going in. But transforming Iraq, freeing millions of people,

stamping out terrorism in a nation right in the middle of the Arab

world will pay huge dividends in the war on terror, period. It gives us

a democratic ally in the Middle East.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this effort, rather

than tearing it and the brilliant men and women in uniform down.