Thank you, Mr. Gingrey. I appreciate your allowing me to

join you and these other very articulate people who are here tonight

speaking on this issue.

I was not here as a Member of Congress on 9/11/2001, but I am very

pleased to be here tonight. As we were outside singing The Star

Spangled Banner and our colleagues in the majority were talking about

our being united, I was thinking about the fourth verse of The Star

Spangled Banner, which very seldom gets sung, but I think is something

that is so appropriate for the time that we are in right now.

This is the way it goes. I know it by heart, but I didn't want to

take a chance tonight, so I am going to look at my notes just in case.

It is really my favorite verse.

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

When Francis Scott Key wrote those words in 1814, they meant a lot.

They mean just as much or more now, and I am, like my colleagues,

absolutely appalled at the approach that has been taken to the

situation that we are in now by many on the Democratic side.

It is appalling that they would question the integrity of the very

men and women who are giving them the chance to stand up and lambaste

them and slander them the way they are. They completely have forgotten

what happened on 9/11. Many American people have forgotten. They don't

understand the threat that this country is under and what we are doing

to preserve our freedom.

There is such irony in the fact that these people would get up and

say this again against the people who are risking their lives so they

can stand up in the safety of this country and speak freely. It just

absolutely blows my mind that they are able to do that. They are being

given the ability to speak freely by people risking their lives and

people losing their lives every day.

There is an arrogance of this Congress too, I think, the arrogance

that demanded this report, the arrogance that says we are failing,

when, in the face of all of the statistics, things are going so much

better. There is an arrogance that says that if there is no strong

national government, then things aren't going right.

You know, people have forgotten that this country was founded to have

a strong local and State governmental structure, and the local and

state governmental structures in Iraq are working well. No, it is not

going as well as the national level, but compare what we have done with

what they have done. We have accomplished very little under the

leadership of this Democratic house in the last 8 months; very, very

little. You compare that to what they have been able to achieve and

think about us.

I spoke to a class today, three classes, actually, in my district,

and I said to those students, the American people really don't realize

in many ways the radical idea that this country was when we were

formed. When people came to the United States, before it was the United

States, they came here for freedom. They came seeking freedom. All they

had ever known was freedom.

When Britain tried to clamp down on us, people said we are not going

to put up with that. All the people in this country have ever known is

freedom. All the people of Iraq have ever known is repression. We have

asked them to do in a couple of years what took many years to develop

in this country; and, again, it was a totally radical idea never

perpetuated anywhere before. And yet they are doing very well at the

local and provincial level, just like we did.

And now this Congress comes in and says if you don't have a strong

national government, you have nothing. You are a failure. That is just

not true. And I am simply appalled, too, at the people who want us to

lose. How can they not understand the impact of our losing the war

against the radical Islamic jihadists? This is not a war in Iraq; this

is a worldwide war. One piece is in Iraq, and in many ways we are

blessed that we have a concentration there where we can deal with it,

because we are stopping them all over. They have not attacked us again.

We have successfully defended ourselves from another attack, but they

simply do not want to acknowledge it. All they see are the negatives,

nothing positive.

And I, again, am appalled at the attitude of the people who want the

United States of America to fail. My attitude to them is if you can

find a better place to live, go live there. If you can't, then stay

here, help us defend this country. Help us support our troops willingly

to fight for our freedom. Help us to bring liberty to other places in

the world. Then we will see a safe world. If not, go someplace else and

live.