I rise in support,

as so many of my colleagues

have, of House Resolution 292, because

this Congress is a coequal branch of

government, and we must never be a

quiet coequal branch, especially on

military matters.

When the U.S. sends its sons and

daughters into harm’s way, it must

only be done to protect America’s vital

national security interests and where

there is a clear plan to advance those

interests.

We know our Nation is insolvent,

with a national debt of over $14 trillion.

Our troops are already overextended,

we’re hearing, in Afghanistan

and Pakistan. Meanwhile, the administration

is talking about defense

spending cuts at the very same time

it’s piling on this new mission, a humanitarian

mission, a narrow humanitarian

mission, we’re told, on top of all

our other commitments.

Now what gives? This Congress needs

to be heard. Our President has failed to

properly define what vital national security

interests justify this military

intervention, and with this resolution,

we give him 14 days to do so. Sadly and

ironically, by becoming involved in

Libya, our NATO alliance, which does

remain a vitally important national security

interest, may well have been put

at risk.

This Congress will be heard.