I thank the gentleman

from Florida for yielding me time to

speak today.

I’ve been opposed to this operation in

Libya from the very start. In terms of

national security priorities, we should

be focusing on rapidly and successfully

completing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan,

reorganizing the national

security establishment to more effectively

wage counterterrorism operations

against al Qaeda, and resetting

the DOD to defend our cherished way of

life in a manner consistent for a Republic,

not an Empire. Going forward,

we need to learn from these experiences

and exercise more discipline; not

getting involved in operations like

Libya where vital national security interests

are not present.

We should cease our involvement in

Libya immediately. I’m supporting this

resolution to cut off funds for combat

operations. I view this as a good start,

but I want to be clear: I will not be satisfied

until all funds are cut off for this

operation, no exceptions.

Then we need to revise the War Powers

Act to ensure we never again end

up with a President taking this country

to war without proper authorization.

We need to rediscover the Founders’

intent on this critical issue, and

I’ve introduced legislation, the War

Powers Reform Act, to make it so. The

War Powers Reform Act clarifies when

the President may deploy forces into

hostilities or imminent threat of hostilities:

one, declaration of war; two,

specific statutory authorization; or

three, a national emergency created by

an attack on the United States or an

imminent threat of an attack on our

country. If none of these circumstances

are met, the President must first come

to Congress to obtain authorization before

deploying forces. The key change

in the War Powers Reform Act is that

without prior authorization, the President

may not obligate or expend funds

to deploy troops into combat.

Congress must act to restore constitutional

balance and the voice of the

American people. We need to reform

the War Powers Act. I urge my colleagues

to support both this bill and

Mr. ROONEY’s resolution on Libya that

we are voting on today.