Mr.

Speaker, what we have here are two essential

arguments; one is more of an

intramural argument between Congress

and the White House, but it is a misplaced

argument because there is no

President that has come to this Congress

for a declaration of war since

World War II—and granted, we’ve been

in seven or eight major conflicts. So

this is much greater than this conflict

between the White House and this Congress.

Unfortunately, I believe that this

measure is just an attempt to, rather

in a strong way, get the attention of

the President. It may be to chastise

the President a bit. I think if you look

at the RECORD there were communications

here, but there is a larger profound

message here. It’s not a message

that this is to send to the President.

This is a bad-timed piece of legislation

because it sends the wrong message to

the world.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Congress,

we are the leaders of the free

world. America is a great country, and

our standing is at stake. And this

move, this bill will pull the rug out

from under NATO at precisely the time

when we need to be sending a strong

message of encouragement. The United

States is in a support role here. So it is

very important that we defeat this

amendment and make sure that we

send the right message to our allies,

that we will not pull the rug out from

under them.