I thank the gentleman

for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill purports to cut

off funding for combat in Libya. In

doing so, it simply forbids what the

Constitution already forbids—the waging

of war without explicit congressional

authorization. But then it specifically

grants to the President what

up until now he has completely lacked:

congressional authority to engage in

every conceivable belligerent act short

of actually pulling the trigger.

Refueling bombers on their way to

targets, identifying and selecting targets,

guiding munitions to their targets,

logistical support, operational

planning—these are all acts of war in

direct support of belligerents at war,

and this bill authorizes them.

The House has just considered whether

to authorize war with Libya. It has

specifically, categorically, and decisively

rejected it. The President is now

on notice that he is in direct defiance

of Congress. That is the message we

need to send today. Let’s not enter a

war through the back door, when we

have already decided not to enter it

through the front.