Mr. Speaker, I have strong

constitutional concerns regarding H.R. 2278.

When the Founding Fathers met at the Constitutional

Convention in Philadelphia, the differentiation

between which branch of the federal

government initiates war and which

branch conducts it was one of the most seriously

debated topics. After deep thought and

consideration, the Founders decided to grant

Congress the power to declare war and left to

the President, as Commander-in-Chief, the authority

to conduct wars. Today, the Congress

is asked to vote on a measure that would reverse

the constitutionally prescribed war powers

by directing the President on how to conduct

the military conflict in Libya.

While I have supported past efforts to

defund the military conflict in Libya, I cannot

vote in support of a bill that only defunds

some of the military effort while endorsing others.

The Congress should and must debate

the merits of our foray into Libya and either

authorize it completely or demand that the

President terminate our military engagement.

This is the only constitutionally sound course

for Congress to take.