I appreciate the

chairlady for yielding me time on this

issue.

Mr. Speaker, going to war is a big

deal. That’s why our forefathers put

within the Constitution that when

America is to go to war it is Congress

that is to lead that charge, that it is

Congress to authorize America’s going

to war. That has been the law in the

Constitution since it was written.

Then came the War Powers resolution,

and Congress decided that it

would give a little of that constitutional

authority to the President for a

period of days until he justified his action

before Congress. We can argue

whether the War Powers resolution is

constitutional or not. But in any

event, Congress has not led America to

war in Libya.

The President has.

The President made that decision.

As James Madison, the author of the

Constitution, said in a letter to Thomas

Jefferson—and I paraphrase—it has

been the history of peoples that it has

been the executive branch that has led

a country to war, and that’s why our

Constitution prevented kings and dictators

and even Presidents from leading

this country to war. It must be authorized

by Congress.

But now we find ourselves in America’s

third war—in Libya. The President

took us to war. Now, on this day,

we are being asked to support and justify

that war in this resolution. I vote

‘‘no’’ on this resolution. We have no

business in Libya. Even the administration

has said it is not in the national

security interest of the United

States to be in Libya.

So why are we there? We are there

because we don’t like Muammar Qadhafi.

There are a lot of bad guys in the

world, and if we start picking them off

one at a time we will be at war with

most of the world, because most of the

world is led by rogue dictators—or bad

guys. We have no business being in

Libya. We have no business justifying

this war on the House floor.

It is Congress’ responsibility to

defund any further action in Libya, and

that is what we should do. It’s unfortunate

we don’t have that up-or-down

vote. I wish we could vote up or down

today on that issue and let the House

decide if we should be at war in Libya.

$700 million has already been spent on

the war in Libya. It’s hard to figure out

where that money came from. I get different

answers from different people

about where the President got that

money. Maybe we should spend that

$700 million in the United States,

building America rather than blowing

up Libya. I think that would be a better

use of funds.

We need to take care of America. We

shouldn’t be involved in somebody

else’s civil war in Libya. Who are the

rebels? We’re not sure who they are either.

They may be extremists. They

may be patriots. They may be of democratic

philosophy. We have no idea.

We don’t know

who the rebels are. They may be worse

than Muammar Qadhafi. Now, isn’t

that a lovely situation if they take

control. We replace an oppressive regime

with an extremist radical regime,

and that’s all because we are in a war

that was unauthorized by this Congress.

Cut off all funds. Vote against this

resolution.

And that’s just the way it is.