Mr. Speaker,

President Obama, without consulting

Congress or the American people,

intervened in Libya’s civil war, resulting

in the murder of four Americans,

including our Ambassador in

Benghazi, while creating yet another

fertile terrorist recruiting ground. Repeating

its Libya mistake, in September

2012, the Obama administration

declared that America will intervene in

Syria’s civil war and work ‘‘to support

a Syrian opposition to hasten the day

when Assad falls.’’

Shortly thereafter, I stood on this

floor, stated my opposition to America’s

intervening in yet another civil

war and argued that ‘‘America must

stop spending our treasury and risking

American lives for those who neither

appreciate our sacrifices, nor believe in

basic liberties like freedom of religion

and freedom of speech.’’

I have participated in classified hearings

with Secretary of State John

Kerry, National Security Adviser

Susan Rice, and many others. I have

listened to President Obama. The arguments

for attacking Syria are

unpersuasive.

Absent substantially different circumstances,

and consistent with my

2012 opposition to intervening in Syria’s

civil war, I will vote against attacking

Syria, if and when Congress

has that vote. I reject the President’s

argument that the best way to keep

Syrians from killing Syrians is for

Americans to kill Syrians. America has

peaceful options. We should pursue

them more vigorously.

There is not the required public support

to attack Syria. Americans oppose

attacking Syria by a two-to-one ratio.

In Alabama’s Fifth Congressional District,

1,272 citizens have contacted my

office about Syria, and 1,267 citizens

oppose attacking Syria. A scant five

citizens out of 1,272 support attacking

Syria.

The President last night told America

that there is no evidence that Syria

is a security threat to America that

supports preemptive military action.

Yet an attack makes Syria and its allies

a security threat. President Obama

erred when he made Syria’s chemical

weapons a red line. But a President’s

verbal gaffes don’t justify war. A Syrian

war costs money America does not

have. Every dollar spent attacking

Syria worsens America’s deficit and

debt, weakens our economy, undermines

our ability to pay for national

security, and increases the risk of even

more defense layoffs and furloughs.

An American attack on Syria aids

and abets Syrian rebels. Syrian rebels

have beheaded Christians solely because

they are Christians. One rebel

leader killed a Syrian soldier, cut open

his chest, took out his heart, ate it,

and then bragged about. Another rebel

leader personally executed helpless

prisoners of war. I question the wisdom

of helping rebels who may be even

more evil and barbaric than Syrian

President Assad. Yet that is exactly

what President Obama proposes.

The White House Syrian strategy is

conflicting and amorphous. The President

claims he does not seek regime

change. Yet in 2012, his administration

said the exact opposite. President

Obama claims attacks will deter Syria’s

chemical weapons use, yet his Secretary

of State insists that attacks

will be ‘‘unbelievably small.’’

I have reservations about this administration’s

ability to handle a delicate

foreign policy matter. This administration

bungled its Fast and Furious gunrunning

program, killing hundreds of

innocent Mexicans and an American

Border Patrol agent. This administration

botched Benghazi and threw in a

coverup for good measure. This administration

illegally uses the Internal

Revenue Service to attack political adversaries.

The list goes on and on.

President Obama has cultivated

cheerleaders but not players on the

field whose militaries will help America

attack Syria. America cannot perpetually

be the world’s only policeman.

In sum, I believe attacking Syria unilaterally

makes matters worse, not

better. Absent a major international

effort to punish Syrian President Assad

for his inhumane and criminal use of

chemical weapons, I cannot and will

not in good conscience vote on the

House floor or in the Foreign Affairs or

Armed Services Committees to attack

Syria.