I thank the

gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

I want to start off by saying this is

not a partisan issue. I am very happy

to cosponsor this legislation because

it’s the only legislation we are discussing

today that has teeth in it. It

really deals with the problem.

Now, Qadhafi is a bad guy and he

ought to be replaced. There are a lot of

tyrants around the world that ought to

be replaced. But should the United

States go to war any place we want to

to get rid of a bad guy unless it’s in our

national interest, or unless we’re at

risk, or unless there’s been a declaration

of war? No. We could go to war

anyplace we want to if we just say this

guy’s a bad guy and he’s killing his

own people. We could do it in Syria, we

could do in Ivory Coast, we could do it

all over the place.

But the Congress of the United

States is the body that’s supposed to be

consulted by the President before we

go to war. The President did not do

this. We are contributing about twothirds,

or at least half of the war effort.

It’s cost over $700 million, and it

will be over $1 billion before it’s all

over. And the President has taken us

into this conflict without the authority

of the Congress, without the support

of the Congress.

He did get the Arab League, he did

get the United Nations. He did talk to

the French and the English. But he

didn’t talk to the people’s House, the

Congress of the United States. And the

President did not have the authority

do this.

Now, the reason I support the

Kucinich resolution is it sends a clear

message to the White House they cannot

do this again. They cannot unilaterally

go into Syria or the Ivory Coast

or anyplace else without talking to the

Congress that represents the people all

across this country. The President

should not have done this. And the

only legislation that really deals with

the problem today is the Kucinich resolution,

which I cosponsored. I am a coauthor

of it.

Now, I am going to vote for the

Boehner resolution because it does

send a signal. But it does not solve the

problem. The only way to solve the

problem is to let the President know he

cannot, should not, and will not be able

to do this again.

Let me just

say that the Constitution of the United

States and the War Powers Act prohibit

the President from doing what he

did. And I’m kind of torn because I

stayed up late last night thinking

about this whole issue. I believe that

we shouldn’t have gone into Libya in

the first place, and we certainly

shouldn’t go into Syria or another

place without the authorization of the

Congress of the United States.

And that’s the reason why I cosponsored

the Kucinich resolution, because

we have to send a very strong signal

that we’re not going to go to war without

the people of this country supporting

it. And the President did this

unilaterally after talking to the Arab

League and the U.N. and others without

the consent of the people of this

country. That’s the first thing.

The second thing is the Boehner resolution

I’m going to support, but it

doesn’t go far enough. As far as it goes,

it’s fine. But it talks only about boots

on the ground. Most of the wars in

which we’ve been involved are fought

in the air with drones, missiles and airplanes.

And about two-thirds of the

missiles and over half of the sorties

flown by the airplanes that are involved

in this war, over two-thirds of

those are used by the United States.

This is an American conflict. And so

when we talk about boots on the

ground, that’s not sufficient.

Now, I’m going to support it as far as

it goes because the Speaker is trying to

move this in the right direction, but we

shouldn’t just limit this to boots on

the ground. It should involve no military

operation whatsoever without the

consent of the Congress and the people

of this country. And when the Speaker

says boots on the ground only, unless

we are going in to save one of our

troops that are downed in an air fight

or shot down when they go in on a

bombing run, then that, in effect, is

putting boots on the ground anyhow to

get those people out of there.

So, I will support the Boehner resolution,

but I prefer the Kucinich resolution

because it sends a very strong signal

and tells the President, in no uncertain

terms, that he cannot take us

to war without the consent of the people

of this country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to read

parts of this letter, dated March 30, if

I may:

Dear Speaker BOEHNER and Majority

Leader CANTOR: We, the undersigned

Members of Congress, write to request

the United States House of Representatives

immediately take steps to hold a

debate and floor vote on the President’s

authority to continue the use of

military force in Libya.

We cite the Constitution, article I,

section 8.

We go on to say that the United

States has now been engaged militarily

in Libya since March 19, 2011. While we

firmly believe that a robust debate and

up-or-down floor vote should have occurred

in advance of U.S. military action

in Libya, it is without question

that such measures are still urgently

required. Beyond defending congressional

authority in these matters,

these deliberations are essential to ensuring

that we as a country fully debate

and understand the strategic

goals, costs, and long-term consequences

of military action in Libya.

That is one paragraph of this sentence.

Now, Madam Speaker, over 60 days

since our letter, the Speaker has suddenly

and hastily scheduled a resolution

that, frankly, does nothing but

serve to politicize what is an extremely

serious and what should be a nonpartisan

issue.