Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support today of H.R.

1569. Given the current ongoing military operations and the fact that

the American men and women of our Armed Forces have their lives on the

line, I do not think that now is the time to have a constitutional

showdown on the War Powers Act.

We had an opportunity to repeal the War Powers Act in 1995 and the

administration, despite the urging of several former presidents, failed

to support the effort to end this legal obstacle. I believe that the

War Powers Act is indeed unconstitutional, but today the debate is on

Kosovo and the policy of our pursuing military operations against

Yugoslavia.

I continue to be extremely concerned about the current military

operations in the Balkans and the obvious lack of long-term goals and

objectives. We were initially told that our military objectives were to

deter Serbian attacks against the people of Kosovo and to reduce their

ability to pursue offensive operations in Kosovo. Two weeks ago we were

told that our objective was to remove all Serbian troops from Kosovo, a

political moving target. After five weeks of bombing targets, which

have been limited by politicians, Serbian forces have created a

humanitarian crisis where over 1 million refugees have now retreated

from Kosovo, and, in fact, have dug in along the Kosovo border.

In 1995, the President said that we would send troops to keep peace

in Bosnia for a year. We are four years later and we still have 6,000

American soldiers serving in Bosnia, with no end in sight.

Where are we headed in Kosovo? We still do not have a clear, well-

defined mission or strategy for what we are pursuing in the Balkans.

There may be conceivably some point in time at which I would very

reluctantly support the use of overwhelming force, including ground

troops, to ensure that the United States is victorious in this military

engagement. Dictators around the word must know that when America

becomes involved, we intend to win.

The President must show leadership and define our mission and the end

game strategy, clarify our objectives and provide the resources

required to ensure victory. We must know when we have achieved success

and how we measure our progress.

Our military is already overextended and underfunded, and we are

fighting a war without a clearly defined objective. Mr. Speaker, we

cannot win that. We need leadership. We need to support H.R. 1569.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Ms. Fowler's bill to

prohibit the deployment of ground troops in Yugoslavia unless

specifically authorized by Congress.

Given the current ongoing military operations and the fact that the

American men and women of our Armed Forces have their lives on the

line, I do not think that this is the time to have a constitutional

showdown on the War Powers Act. We had an opportunity to repeal the War

Powers Act in 1995 and the administration, despite the urging of

several former Presidents, failed to support the effort to end this

legal obstacle. I believe that the War Powers Act is indeed

unconstitutional, but the debate today is on Kosovo and the policy of

pursuing military operations against Yugoslavia.

I continue to be extremely concerned about the current military

operations in the Balkans and the obvious lack of long term goals and

objectives. We were initially told that the military objectives were to

deter Serbian attacks against the people of Kosovo and to reduce the

ability of the Serbian military to pursue offensive operations in

Kosovo. Two weeks ago we were told that our objective was to remove all

Serbian troops from Kosovo. However, after five weeks of bombing

targets which have been limited by politicians, Serbian forces have

created a humanitarian crisis with over a million refugees, have not

retreated from Kosovo, and in fact have dug in along the Kosovo border.

In 1995, the President said that we would send troops to keep the

peace in Bosnia for a year. Here we are almost 4 years later with 6,000

American soldiers serving in Bosnia with no end in sight. Where are we

headed in Kosovo? We still do not have a clear well-defined mission or

strategy for what we are pursuing in the Balkans.

There may conceivably be a point at which I would very reluctantly

support the use of overwhelming force, including ground troops, to

ensure that the United States is victorious in this military

engagement. Dictators around the world must know that when America

becomes involved, we intend to win. The President must show leadership

and define our mission and the end game strategy, clarify our

objectives, and provide the resources required to ensure victory. We

must know when we have achieved success, how we measure our progress,

and thoroughly understand new long term commitments we are accepting.

Our military is already overextended and under funded. They are

brilliantly executing a questionable policy. Without a significant

change, another long term, open ended commitment in the Balkans will

continue to degrade military readiness and our ability to deal with

other national security challenges around the world.

It is clear that the President has failed to plan for the possible

contingencies and the unintended consequences of military action in the

Balkans, he has failed to demonstrate clear and decisive leadership in

leading this military campaign to a successful conclusion, he has

failed to provide the necessary resources to adequately support our

brave men and women serving in the military. I am gravely concerned

about the incremental and gradual escalation of this conflict without

the clear understanding of where we are headed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill to ensure

that we in Congress are engaged in this before the President commits us

further to war in the Balkans.