

In one of the first major actions in the new 112th Congress, the House passed a rule this week reaffirming the commitment to limit the Chamber's actions to only those explicitly authorized by the U.S. Constitution. This rule requires that every introduced bill cite a specific provision in the Constitution that authorizes Congress to take the proposed action. In addition, House Republicans reasserted the essential role of the Constitution by reading it in its entirety on the House floor for the first time in history. Too often, Congress spends its time legislating on matters that it has no authority over and in certain cases, as with ObamaCare's individual health care mandate, passing laws that are simply unconstitutional. I believe we could avoid a great deal of unnecessary bureaucracy and intrusive regulation simply by returning to the constitutional concept of limited federal powers and upholding the 10th amendment, which declares, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Millions of Americans are clearly fed up with Congress exceeding its constitutional authority. I believe a renewed focus on the Constitution is long overdue and will help the House better represent the will of the people.