Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on Syria.

The real issue is that the Assad regime gassed more than 426 children and

their parents. Those who perished died

a horrific, merciless, and completely

unnecessary death. We must come together and act with the President to

create a credible threat of force and,

thereby, deter the future use of chemical weapons.

Now, I am somewhat optimistic that,

as recently reported, Syria is willing to

place its chemical weapons under

international control. This solution

could possibly bring a peaceful resolution. But we must remember that Iran

is also watching. The Ayatollah is

looking to see if the U.S. is willing to

stand up against those who gas their

own people. Will they really stand up

then against the plan to build nuclear weapons?

We need to stand with the President

and send a message to the world that

we mean what we say: that we won’t

allow Assad to keep gassing his own

people and that we won’t allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon.