Mr. Speaker, the danger of a nuclear Iran may be the biggest security challenge facing America

and the world, and now it appears that

the Iranian regime might finally be

willing to talk about ending their nuclear weapons programs.

This opportunity raises many questions. Can we depend on Iran to negotiate in good faith? Is Iran truly ready

to renounce terrorism? And what will

be the cost to the people of Iran if we

engage a regime that oppresses its own people?

We must confront all these questions

and scour our conscience for the answers. But these questions are dwarfed

by a more immediate one: Do we have

the courage, the foresight and the

strength of will to seize this opportunity? Will we be brave enough to

talk with Iran and risk a diplomatic

failure? Or will we be so afraid to talk

that we would risk war?

I ask the President to confront his

fears, justified as they may be, and

choose the courageous path of reaching

out to engage Iran on a diplomatic formula to end the Iranian nuclear program.