Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the resolution before us.

The most grave responsibility any

Member of Congress ever undertakes or

considers is the vote to give the President of the United States the authority

to use force if necessary.

On September 11, I drove past the

Pentagon. I came in to my congressional office building, and I was informed that a plane had just struck the

Pentagon. We left our offices, we went

to a place, we tried to call our families,

the communications systems were

jammed. It took 3 hours until I could

finally talk to my wife and I have five

sons, and I began talking to each of my

boys. I got to my second son, Ross, and

he was crying, and he asked me, Daddy, are we safe?

In my lifetime, I never asked that

question. I never asked that question,

Are we safe, of my mother and daddy,

of my father, because the generations

that went before us gave us the blessings of liberty. They protected and defended our safety and security when a

threat, a challenge emerged; when we

were at risk, they answered the call. So

many times in our Nation’s history, we

have had the strong voices that have

given us warnings and called us to action, and so many times we did not listen. Winston Churchill called on the

world to look and to act at the threat

that Hitler posed, and the world did

not listen; and because of that, more

death and more destruction and world war came.

Today, we have an opportunity,

backed by a clear and convincing

threat, and backed by a leader of character, to hear the warnings, to know that nuclear capability is around the

corner in the hands of a dictator, in the

hands of a tyrant; and he could use it,

and the death and the destruction that

it could cause would be devastating. It

would be overwhelming. But if we act

now, we can stop it. We can prevent it. We can preempt it.

For those reasons, we have the moral

obligation to act. I support the resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do

the same.