Mr. Speaker, I rise

today as an original cosponsor of H.R.

1828, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese

Sovereignty Restoration Act. I

urge all my colleagues to continue

their support for this important legislation.

The United States must show

Syria that there are consequences for

supporting terrorism and undermining

peace in the region.

H.R. 1828 holds Syria accountable for

its continued support of terrorism, occupation

of Lebanon, and possession

and development of weapons of mass

destruction. It gives the President the

tools he needs to impose penalties on

Syria unless Syria corrects its behavior

immediately.

Syria is listed on the State Department’s

list of countries who harbor and

support terrorism. Syria has proven to

be a destabilizing force in the Middle

East, continuing to develop and stockpile

chemical weapons and the missiles

to deliver them and remaining the occupying

power in Lebanon. Syria offered

support to Iraq even as U.S. and

coalition forces were engaged in combat

and has turned a blind eye to militants

who slip across their borders into

Iraq to kill American soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, yet Syria is subject to

fewer U.S. sanctions than any other

country considered a state sponsor of

terrorism.

I would like to take this opportunity

to commend my colleagues, the gentleman

from New York (Mr. ENGEL)

and also the gentlewoman from Florida

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for introducing

this legislation. I just want to urge my

colleagues on a bipartisan basis to

fully support and pass this bill as

amended in the Senate.