Mr. Speaker, I rise

today in support of the amendment

being offered by the gentlewoman from

California entitled The Alternative to

War. It could not be more aptly named.

It seeks to commit the United States

to fully engaging the diplomatic processes

and to work multilaterally

through the United Nations to achieve

unfettered inspections of Iraq’s chemical,

biological and nuclear weapons

capabilities, disarm and, indeed, dismantle.

There is no one in this Chamber who

does not believe that the world would

be better off without Saddam Hussein.

But the President has not made a convincing

case that the Hussein regime in

Iraq indeed poses an immediate threat.

In fact, our own intelligence experts

tell us that the most likely threat of

the use of such weapons of mass destruction

by Iraq would occur if the

United States invaded Iraq.

What that suggests is that we should

not be authorizing the President to act

unilaterally, sending our brave young

men and women into harm’s way. Indeed,

the President has most recently

said that war should be the last resort.

This amendment certainly puts peace

first and puts war as a last resort. Support

this amendment to the resolution.