Mr. Speaker, I rise in support

of the resolution to Authorize the Use of the

United States Armed Forces Against Iraq. This

resolution grants to the President all the authority

he needs to protect U.S. national security

interests—including the use of military

force if necessary—against the threat posed

by Iraq.

After more than a decade of deception and

defiance since the end of the Gulf War, Saddam

Hussein poses a new and growing threat

to the world. He has deceived and defied the

will and resolutions of the United Nations Security

Council through many means including;

continuing to seek and develop chemical, biological,

and nuclear weapons; brutalizing the

Iraqi people, using chemical weapons against

his own people and committing gross human

rights violations and crimes against humanity;

and supporting international terrorism.

Saddam Hussein’s evil regime wields a

massive stockpile of chemical and biological

weapons that remains unaccounted for and is

capable of killing millions of innocent people.

Evidence also reveals that Iraq is rebuilding

facilities that it has used to produce chemical

and biological weapons—and to develop nuclear

weapons technology.

The facts are clear—Saddam Hussein desperately

wants a nuclear weapon—and the

wretched history of his evil regime demonstrates

that he will use it.

This threat grows more dangerous with the

knowledge of ties between Hussein and Al-

Qaida. Iraq and the al-Qaida terrorist network

share a common enemy—the United States of

America and its allies in the War on Terror.

After September 11th, Saddam Hussein’s regime

gleefully celebrated the terrorist attacks

on America. But Saddam Hussein doesn’t limit

his involvement in the death of innocents to

merely cheering from the sidelines. In April

2002, Saddam Hussein increased from

$10,000 to $25,000 his regime’s payment to

families of Palestinian homicide bombers. He

continues to encourage violence in the Middle

East and hopes his funding will help the violence

to continue.

I urge my colleagues to speak with one

voice in support of this bipartisan resolution.

While use of military force should be used as

a last resort we must support the President

and speak with one voice. History has taught

us that we cannot wait. We must act now.