Mr. Speaker, I rise in support

of this resolution.

Because this action could ultimately send

our sons and daughters to war, my decision to

support this resolution is one I have considered

very carefully. I have spent the past several

months gathering information from experts

in this and previous administrations, from

other experts in the field, and from my constituents

in Kansas. I have spoken to community

leaders, religious leaders, and my family.

When I began this process, I stated my belief

that the President should present to Congress,

the American people, and the international

community a compelling case for

intervention in Iraq. I have been presented

with evidence and intelligence—some of it

classified—regarding the threat posed by Saddam

Hussein. I am convinced that we must

take action to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass

destruction.

This resolution is not the same as the

measure originally proposed by the White

House. The resolution is a compromise

agreed to by the President and Democratic

and Republican leaders in Congress. It requires

that the President exhaust all diplomatic

options and notify Congress before implementing

military action. Diplomacy must be

our Nation’s first priority in resolving the crisis

in Iraq. I hope the use of force won’t be necessary.

But in order for diplomacy to be successful,

the threat to use force must be credible.

The resolution also encourages the President

to work with our allies and the United Nations

in dealing with Saddam. We were successful

in the Persian Gulf War and, more recently,

in Afghanistan by working cooperatively

with our allies and the United Nations. That

policy should guide the President and Congress

as we confront the threat from Iraq.

As a father and grandfather, this decision

that could send our sons and daughters to war

is the most difficult one I have faced as your

congressman. But we must confront Saddam’s

threat to our security. And we must keep

America safe. The resolution allows us to do

that.

There is no question that Saddam Hussein

possesses weapons of mass destruction in the

form of chemical and biological weapons.

There is also no question that he is working to

develop a nuclear capability. He could be in

possession of a working nuclear device in a

matter of several months to a few years.

There is also no question that Saddam has

shown a willingness to use weapons of mass

destruction against other countries and his

own people. And there is growing evidence of

his willingness to share his weapons with terrorists

and rogue agents who might use those

weapons against America.

Saddam’s aggressive nature knows few

bounds. He represents a clear and present

danger to the United States, our citizens, and

our interests in the world. Based upon the evidence

and intelligence I have reviewed, I believe

Iraq presents a clear threat to the United

States. I will support and vote for the use of

force resolution the President and congressional

leadership agreed to on October 2. This

measure gives the President the authority he

needs to enforce the U.N. resolutions Iraq has

violated, while limiting the scope and duration

of the authority to address the current threats

posed by Iraq.

There’s an old saying: ‘‘Politics stops at the

water’s edge.’’ That is the case here. We must

show the world that we are united in our determination

to protect our Nation and our people

from threat posed by Iraq.