Mr. Speaker, I rise in

support of our national security and in

support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to join my colleagues

that are in support of this resolution.

Last year there were two very significant

events in my life—one was the birth of my first

grandchild, Emerson Ann. The second was

the September 11th attack on our Nation. both

of these events had a deep impact on me personally.

I want for Emerson Ann what every parent

wants for their children, and what every grandparent

wants for their grandchildren, an environment

where she is able to grow up secure

and safe, living the experience of freedom

upon which our Nation was founded. September

11th reminded us that in order to protect

freedom we must not turn a blind eye to

the real dangers around the World in hopes

that they will not affect us.

After numerous briefings on Iraq and the activities

of its leader—Saddam Hussein—there

is no doubt in my mind that he is clear and

present danger to the United States and freedom

loving people around the World.

The evidence mounts with each passing

day. Many analysts believe that Iraq may be,

or become, a breeding ground and source of

support for terrorism. Iraq retains its arsenal of

chemical and biological weapons, and there is

strong evidence that it is also developing nuclear

weapons. There is no way of knowing for

sure the extent of Iraq’s plans or capabilities,

since U.N. weapons. There is no way of knowing

for sure the extent of Iraq’s plans or capabilities,

since U.N. weapons inspectors were

forced out of the country in 1998, and since

Iraq’s current government seems committed to

hiding weapons of mass destruction, delaying

the return of inspectors, and making inspection

efforts ineffective.

Saddam Hussein governs his country by de

facto dictatorship, and has a long history of

human rights abuses against his own people.

And, based on the actions of Iraq’s current

government under Hussein, it would be shortsighted

and naı¨ve to assume that Iraq’s intentions

through his actions are benign.

I believe that a regime change in Iraq is in

the best interest of the United States and our

allies. And, I believe that, as we have done

throughout our history, the United States must

one again display our leadership in the fight

against terrorism throughout the World and

eliminate the threat to security imposed by

Iraq.

While this resolution authorizes military action,

I will hold out hope that it will be used

only as a last resort.

History has taught us that freedom is not

free.