Mr. Speaker, a little over a year ago, this

country saw evil demonstrated as we

had never imagined possible. Last

year’s attacks on our Nation showed us

all too well the immorality of evil persons

who are determined to attack us,

our way of life and the freedom we

cherish. We must act to ensure that no

such attack ever occurs again, and it is

today more imperative than ever that

Iraq’s weapons programs be brought to

light, halted and terminated. The consequences

of not acting to prevent Iraq

from continuing its weapons development

are simply too great to be ignored.

For over a decade, Saddam Hussein

and the Iraqi regime has defied and deceived

the international community.

In its blatant and deliberate violation

of international will and its development

of weapons of mass destruction,

Iraq has continued to pose a real and

significant threat to the security of its

neighbors and the entire Persian Gulf

region, the national security of the

United States and, indeed, the security

of the civilized world.

Saddam Hussein is a ruthless and evil

dictator of a regime that has again and

again showed no respect for international

norms and the rule of law or

respect for human life, just like the

terrorists responsible for the murder of

3,000 innocent Americans last year. As

such, Saddam Hussein is as much a terrorist

and a threat to our Nation as

those directly responsible for last September’s

heinous acts.

What we know about Saddam Hussein

and the Iraqi regime is unquestionably

troubling, and, as President

Bush said, what we do not know is even

more so. His continued research and

development of chemical weapons and

other weapons of mass destruction, the

extent of which is unknown due to his

flagrant violation of international

mandates, is a tremendous threat to

the security of this Nation and must be stopped.

The power to declare war and authorize

the use of military force is one of

the most significant powers the Constitution

gives this body. It is a responsibility

that every Member of Congress

takes seriously, and there is no more

difficult decision that we can make

than to choose to send our military

into action. Ensuring the security of

this Nation and the safety of the citizens

is a responsibility that we all take

seriously, and I provide my support to

President Bush as he makes the tough decisions ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this

resolution to provide the President authorization

to use the United States Armed Forces against Iraq.

A little over a year ago, this country saw evil

demonstrated as we had never before imagined.

Last year’s attacks on our nation showed

us all too well the immorality of evil persons

who are determined to attack us, our way of

life, and the freedom that we cherish. We

must act to ensure that no such attack ever

occurs again, and it is today more imperative

than ever that Iraq’s weapons programs be

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consequences of not acting to prevent Iraq

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simply too great to be ignored.

For over a decade now, Saddam Hussein

and the Iraqi regime has defied and deceived

the international community. In its blatant and

deliberate violation of international will and its

development of weapons of mass destruction,

Iraq has continued to pose a real and significant

threat to the security of its neighbors and

the entire Persian Gulf region, the national security

of the United States, and indeed the security

of the civilized world.

When Iraq accepted the provisions of the

United Nations Security Council Resolution

687 in 1991, it unconditionally accepted the inspection,

destruction, and removal of its weapons

of mass destruction and missile programs

under international supervision. Unfortunately,

however, the United Nations Special Commission’s

(UNSCOM) inspectors were repeatedly

impeded and prevented from carrying out their

mission, and were ultimately banned from Iraq

in October 1998. Since then, Iraq has indisputably

been in breach of its obligations, and

its weapons of mass destruction programs

have gone completely unchecked.

Saddam Hussein is an evil person who cannot

be trusted. Under his leadership, the Iraqi

regime has had a repeated history of aggression

against its neighbors, repression of its

people, and hostility toward the international

community and the United States of America.

The facts speak for themselves:

When Iraq invaded its neighbor Iran in

1980, the ensuing eight year war saw over

one million casualties;

Just ten years later, Iraq’s brutal invasion of

Kuwait in August 1990 was followed by the

detention and use of foreign nationals as

human shields, the torture of Kuwaiti citizens

and coalition servicemen including Americans;

A year after the close of the Persian Gulf

War, the Iraqi regime plotted a foiled assassination

attempt on President George H. W.

Bush during his visit to Kuwait in 1993; and

International coalition warplanes patrolling

and enforcing the UN designated ‘‘no-fly

zones’’ over Iraq—zones agreed to by the

Iraqi regime—have continuously and repeatedly

come under attack from Iraqi anti-aircraft installations.

But most troubling is Iraq’s capability and

capacity to use weapons of mass destruction:

45,000 Iranians were killed when Iraq used

chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq War;

5,000 Kurdish civilians were killed and another

7,000 injured when Saddam Hussein

used chemical weapons on his own people in 1988; and

Iraq again threatened to use chemical

weapons against international coalition forces

during the Persian Gulf War.

Saddam Hussein is a ruthless and evil dictator

of a regime that has again and again

shown no respect for international norms and

the rule of law, or respect for human life—just

like those terrorists responsible for the murder

of 3,000 innocent Americans last year. As

such, Suddam Hussein is as much a terrorist

and a threat to our nation as those directly responsible

for last September’s heinous acts.

What we know about Saddam Hussein and

the Iraqi regime is unquestionably troubling,

and as President Bush said, what we don’t

know is even more so. His continued research

and development of chemical weapons and

other weapons of mass destruction—the extent

of which is unknown due to his flagrant

violation of international mandates—is a tremendous

threat to the security of this nation and must be stopped.

The power to declare war and authorize the

use of military force is one of the most significant

powers the Constitution gives this body.

It is a responsibility that every Member of

Congress takes very seriously, and there is no

more difficult decision that we can make than

to choose to send our military into action. Ensuing

the security of this nation and the safety

of her citizens is also a responsibility that I

and the other members of this body take very

seriously, and that is why I will vote in support

of this resolution. I know that President Bush

shares this concern for the security of this nation,

and I have the utmost confidence that he

will continue to demonstrate the leadership

necessary to protect this nation, just as he has

in our war on terrorism.

I urge passage of this resolution, to give the

President the necessary flexibility to provide

for the security of this great nation by authorizing

the use of force against Iraq.