Mr. Speaker, I thank

my friend from Wisconsin for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong

support of the resolution granting

President Bush the authority he seeks

to take decisive action against Saddam

Hussein. Clearly, this decision is one of

the most sobering I have had to make

during my time in public service. It is

a decision that no Member of Congress

considers lightly. It is also one that I

take confidently and with great moral clarity.

The President’s critics urge dealing

with this threat through diplomatic

and U.N. efforts, but passage of this

resolution is the only way Saddam will

take those ongoing efforts at the U.N.

seriously. It is, in fact, the only hope

for those continuing efforts.

Many of those same critics say that

our government should have connected

the dots and better understood the terrorist

threat before September 11. Well,

that is exactly what we are doing here

now, connecting the dots and better

understanding a closely-related threat.

Saddam Hussein has proved time and

again that his totalitarian regime

threatens America, our allies and even

his own people. He is a known exporter

of terrorism. He causes regional instability.

He actively pursues weapons of

mass destruction. He has proven he is

willing to use them. So inaction, or the

mere return to the old frustrated U.N.

resolutions, is clearly the riskiest path of all.

My constant prayers are for the

members of our Armed Forces around

the world as they embark on their missions.

May God bless them, and may God bless America.