Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman for yielding me this

time.

Mr. Speaker, it is very appropriate

for this Congress to be granting specific

authority to the President to use

all necessary and appropriate force

against the terrorists that attacked

America this week and against those

that harbored the terrorists. It is important,

I believe, to note that this

grant of authority and this purpose of

force is to prevent any future acts of

international terrorism against the

United States. In other words, we are

not just engaging in an act of retaliation

or revenge, as satisfying as that

will be, but we are taking action to

prevent this from happening again to

save the lives of Americans.

The use of force that we authorize

today must be used swiftly and surely

and smartly. It has been said that this

force should be used ferociously. And

that is a strong word but an appropriate

word under these circumstances.

We need to punish the perpetrators of

this terrorist activity. We must prevent

a recurrence, and we must protect

Americans.

It may be we do not need to grant

this authority. Under the War Powers

Act, the President has the ability to

use force when America is attacked, as

we have been this week. But it is good

for Congress to add our voice of support

and to specifically grant this authority

to the President.

We must be targeted and accurate.

We must spare innocent civilians, but

we must act and act firmly. We must

also be ready to use diplomacy, to

build a worldwide coalition to combat

terrorism, to lead the charge, to unite

the democratic governments that oppose

terrorism and those authoritarian

governments that also oppose terrorism.

We need to provide that leadership.

This is our opportunity.

We need to make sure that we fight

the terrorists and not the Islamic

world. Most of the Islamic world agrees

with us in opposition to terrorism. If

we are creative and sensible, this can

be the beginning of the end of international

terrorism.