Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3728, the North Korea

Non-Proliferation Act of 2006. This legislation

would amend the Iran and Syria Nonproliferation

Act to extend the provisions of the Act to

North Korea. Enactment of this legislation

would impose sanctions on persons who

transfer such weapons and related goods and

technology to and from North Korea. This legislation

would authorize sanctions that are

equivalent to those required under current law

for persons who are found to transfer such

items to and from Iran and Syria. S. 3728 also

calls on the international community to act in

accordance with the provisions of United Nations

Security Council Resolution 1695

(UNSCR 1695), which prevents member

states from conducting missile and related

transfers to or from North Korea in reaction to

the tests. This bill is timely and important. It

deserves steadfast support from this body.

North Korea’s nuclear ambitions are destabilizing.

Its recent missile tests on July 5,

2006, were conducted against the urging of

the international community. Ultimately, this

recent missile test was a failure. But that act,

taken together with its previous tests and

North Korea’s intransigent behavior during

international talks on this matter, is indicative

of the recalcitrant nature of the North Korean

regime. North Korea is in fact continuing to

pursue its nuclear and ballistic missiles programs

in spite of diplomatic efforts by the

international community and in contradiction

with North Korea’s previous commitments.

North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear weapons and

ballistic missiles technology and capabilities is

an emerging danger to the national security of the United States.

North Korea’s recent missile test also disappointed

the international community. On July 16, 2006, the United Nations Security

Council adopted UNSCR 1695 in order to prevent

United Nations member states from conducting

missile and related technology transfers

to North Korea in reaction to the tests.

UNSCR 1695 also requires North Korea to

suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile

program and return to the negotiating

table. Enactment of S. 3728 would strengthen

U.S. laws, authorizing the U.S. government to

investigate, sanction, and prevent proliferation

efforts made by or on behalf of the North Korean

regime by government or private entities.

But sanctions alone will not ultimately solve

this problem. Robust and constant diplomatic

pressure on the North Korean regime must

continue to be applied by the United States in

coordination with the United Nations and other

countries. North Korea and its pursuit of nuclear

weapons and delivery vehicles is not only the United States’ problem. I am encouraged

by the fact that China, Japan, South

Korea, and Russia remain desirous of a

peaceful resolution to this problem. The Six

Party Talks involving these countries and North Korea should continue.

More progress should be made toward constraining

North Korea’s ability to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missile technology

and capabilities while we continue diplomatic

efforts to encourage that government to abandon

its nuclear ambitions. S. 3728, the North

Korea Non-Proliferation Act of 2006, will help

to achieve those goals.