Mr. Speaker. I rise in support

of Senate Joint Resolution 23, a resolution to

authorize the use of United States Armed

Forces against those responsible for the recent

attacks launched against the United

States and its citizens. September 11, 2001,

will be a date that will live forever in the hearts

and minds of freedom loving people. On that

date our country was attacked by terrorists in

a way thought impossible. Thousands of innocent

men, women, and children were murdered.

It has touched the lives of thousands of

families and of all Americans. It was an attack

on our people and our freedom. The resolution

before us authorizes the President to take the

appropriate action including if needed the use

of our military against those nations, organizations

or people who planned, authorized, committed

or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred

on September 11, 2001. The resolution

specifically directs that such action be targeted

to prevent any future acts of international terrorism

against the United States by such entities.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to protect

the safety of our citizens, particularly

those within our own country. This resolution

helps us carry out that responsibility. Our military

force must only be used when it is clearly

justified. This resolution limits that use to respond

to the September 11 attack on our Nation.

It is not only justified, but there is no

more legitimate use of military than to defend

one’s country from acts of foreign attack. The

resolution recognizes the role and responsibility

of Congress in authorizing and committing

our military to hostile action. The Constitution

provides that the Congress has the power

to ‘‘provide for the common defense’’ and the

power to ‘‘declare war’’. The resolution strikes

the right balance between the President and

Congress and is in compliance with the War

Powers Act, making it clear of the President’s

obligations to consult with and inform Congress.

Now is the time for Congress to act. Let

those who were responsible for these horrible

deeds know that the Congress and the President

and the American People are united and

are resolved to bring the perpetrators to justice

and to prevent such acts from ever happening

again on our shores.