I thank my colleague

and good friend from New York.

I rise to support this very important

bill. Iran continues to defy Security

Council resolutions by continuing to

develop its nuclear program. The U.S.

and our allies in the U.N. Security

Council have recognized the danger

that would be posed by a nuclear Iran

and have repeatedly demanded that

Iran suspend uranium enrichment.

To change Iran’s course, the U.S.

must increase pressure with every appropriate

diplomatic and political tool.

U.S. sanctions have already helped to

discourage investment in Iran, and further

pressure may yet convince the regime

in Iran to comply with international

obligations and drop its nuclear

program.

This bill will counter Iran’s illicit

nuclear weapons program by sending a

clear message that if Iran does not end

its quest to obtain nuclear weapons,

and its support for terrorism, it will

face strong economic sanctions. The

legislation imposes sanctions that will

undercut Iran’s nuclear program and

support for terrorism.

Moreover, the legislation reaffirms

our commitment to multilateral diplomacy

to increase pressure on Iran to

beef up its program. Finally, it explicitly

states that nothing in the act authorizes

the use of force against Iran.

I urge my colleagues to support this

very important measure.