Mr. Speaker, I

yield myself such time as I may consume.

For decades, the Iranian regime, one

of the world’s most dangerous political

entities, has been pursuing a covert nuclear

program. According to multiple

reports of the International Atomic

Energy Agency, the IAEA, Iran has

been deceiving the world for two decades

about its nuclear ambitions and

has breached its international obligations

dealing with the most sensitive

aspects of the nuclear cycle.

Iran’s violation of the IAEA safeguards,

the safe reporting to the International

Atomic Energy Agency, the

denial of the agency’s request for access

to individuals and locations, the

involvement of its military in parts of

it nuclear program, as well as the Iranian

regime’s continued support of terrorist

activities around the globe contradict

any assertion of the peaceful

intent of the program.

It would be a critical mistake to

allow a regime with a track record as

bloody and as dangerous as Iran’s to

obtain nuclear weapons. Iran drives

Hezbollah extremist ideology and provides

it with weapons and funding, estimated

by some at more than $80 million

per year. In turn, Hezbollah has

helped advance Iranian interests

through continued terrorist attacks

against the United States and our allies

in the region.

This bill before us, Mr. Speaker, H.R.

6198, as amended, will help prevent Iran

from acquiring the technical assistance,

the financial resources, and the

political legitimacy to develop nuclear

weapons and to support terrorism. This

bill requires the imposition of sanctions

on any entity that has exported,

transferred, or otherwise provided to

Iran any goods, services, technology, or

other items that would materially contribute

to Iran’s ability to acquire or

develop unconventional weapons. This

bill codifies U.S. sanctions imposed on

Iran by Executive Order.

The bill also amends the Iran-Libya

Sanctions Act by extending the authorities

in the bill until December 31,

2011. It also requires the President to

certify to Congress that waiving the

imposition of sanctions is vital to the

national security interests of the

United States.

Furthermore, the bill authorizes the

provision of democracy assistance to

eligible human rights and pro-democracy

groups and broadcasting entities.

Moreover, this legislation will allow

the United States to use the necessary

tools against financial institutions

which are involved in the proliferation

of weapons of mass destruction or missiles.

This bill provides a comprehensive

approach, providing U.S. officials with

strong leverage to secure cooperation

from our allies in order to counter the

Iranian threat. The sanctions under

title II of this bill seek to target the

Iranian regime where it is most vulnerable:

Its energy sector. Knowledgable

experts agree that for Iran, a fuel importer,

sanctions could be crippling.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, this bill is not an

alternative to diplomacy, but rather

complementary to our multilateral efforts.

We cannot afford to wait any

longer as the potential consequences of

further inaction could be catastrophic.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support

to this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am attaching an exchange of

letters between Chairman HYDE and Chairmen

THOMAS and OXLEY concerning the bill H.R.

6198 ‘‘The Iran Freedom Support Act’’ for

printing in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, as

recently as last month, Iran blatantly

refused to respond to the August 31

deadline as set forth by the United Nations

Security Council to stop enriching

its uranium in exchange for a very

generous incentives package.

We have tried to coax. We have tried

to induce. We have tried to talk the

Iranians into cooperating. Enough with

the carrots; it is time for the stick.

We hope that all freedom-loving nations

are allies in this struggle for nonproliferation

efforts and would, out of

their own volition, take the necessary

steps to hold Iran accountable for its

own behavior. However, sometimes

even friends need a little prodding.

Writer Charles Krauthammer points

out the chilling reality of the opportunity

costs of not dealing effectively

with Iran at this time. He says,

This bill will help contain the Iranian

threat and will send a clear message

that we will not tolerate flagrant

violations of international nonproliferation

obligations.