I thank my distinguished

friend from California for

yielding to me, and I rise in strong support

of this bill.

My colleagues, we have to deal with

things as they are, not as what we wish

them to be. I wish there was reasonableness

among the government of Iran

today. I wish there were people that we

could talk to on a friendly basis and

reason with them and come to some

kind of a compromise.

But that is not what we have here.

We have a belligerent regime that is

pursuing nuclear weapons, that is hostile

towards the United States, that is

hostile towards the West, that is hostile

towards Israel. You have a president

of that country who has said

every foul thing imaginable, denies the

Holocaust, says he wants to wipe Israel

off the face of the map, and says that

Americans are his sworn enemy.

This bill makes sense. This bill extends

the current law and sanctions

and provides important additional authorities

to fight that threat. It is the

carrot and the stick. We are having democracy

building in this bill. We are

being able to try to reach the Iranian

people, who are good friends of the

American people, but they are trapped

by a repressive government and a government

that doesn’t have their best

interests at heart, let alone anybody

else’s best interest.

So this is sort of a carrot-and-stick

approach. We slap sanctions when sanctions

are needed. We amend, also we

expand it. It is expiring if we don’t

amend it, and it does what we know

needs to be done.

Iran needs to be challenged. It cannot

be allowed to have nuclear weapons.

This is the same policy, it is a centrist

policy, it makes a lot of sense, and I

urge strong bipartisan support for this

bill.