Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition

to H.R. 6198, the Iran Freedom Support

Act, because this bill could very well derail the

diplomatic efforts currently underway that are

our best hope for ending the possibility of an

Iranian nuclear weapon.

Let me be clear that I agree with the great

majority of which this bill would do. I believe

that we should extend the Iran Libya Sanctions

Act. I believe that we should support

human rights in Iran.

But as with so many things in life, Mr.

Speaker, timing is everything. And this is the

wrong time to pass this bill.

Crucial negotiations between Iran and the

European Union in Berlin are reportedly closing

in on a deal that would suspend Iran’s uranium

enrichment program while multilateral

talks commence. The Bush administration has

so botched the issue of containing Iran’s nuclear

ambitions that we have few choices left.

These negotiations were just suspended for a

week, and it would surprise no one if Iran did

not return to the table. But make no mistake:

as bad as the negotiation option may turn out

to be, it remains our best chance of stopping

Iran from ever building a nuclear weapon.

We need to support these negotiations, not

undermine them. For the Congress to pass

language which essentially makes regime

change in Iran the official policy of the United

States would be counterproductive while these

negotiations in Berlin remain promising.

I could support this bill at another time, but

not now, not when its passage could kill the

ongoing negotiations.