Mr. Speaker, in stopping

a nuclear-armed Iran, 2012 will be as

critical a year as ever, and that’s a

fact. But we here in this Chamber

speak as one. With a bipartisan, unambiguous

voice, we can drive the conversation

all around the world, and

that does mean something because the

United States must lead the world. It

is an abdication of our responsibility

and leadership if we leave the Iranian

threat to anyone else.

This Iranian regime is already the

leading state sponsor of terrorism in

the world. They bear responsibility for

killing American soldiers in Iraq and

Afghanistan. They fuel Assad’s slaughter

in Syria. They were behind the recently

foiled assassination plot right

here on American soil in Washington,

D.C. Now imagine what they would do

under a nuclear umbrella of their own.

This is why we, this Congress, and

this administration must anticipate

what comes next. We must clearly establish

that containment has no place

at the table. Such a policy places us at

the mercy of a madman, and it would

unleash unparalleled consequences the

likes of which the world has never

seen. This is what’s at stake.