Madam

Speaker, we are just days away from

President Obama’s deadline to Iran

that it accept his offer of meaningful

talks about that country’s nuclear program.

Although the U.S. and other

world powers will meet in Iran on October

1, Iran has said discussions of its

nuclear program are finished. Any discussion

that does not include Iran’s nuclear

program significantly dilutes any

benefits of such talks.

For 8 months, Iran has had the opportunity

to discuss its nuclear program.

Now, moments before the deadline, it

proposes talks but remains unwilling

to engage on the most important issue.

The President needs to rally international

support through the U.N. and

G–20 summit this month for sanctions

against Iran to ensure that they have

great impact.

At the same time, Congress should

move forward with legislation that has

been introduced to put pressure on

Iran. Specifically, we should pass H.R.

2194, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions

Act.

The longer we wait to address Iran’s

pursuit of nuclear weapons, the more

difficult it becomes to deal with Iran,

and the world becomes a more dangerous

place. Hoping that Iran changes

course is not a strategy we can live

with.