Madam Speaker, I

yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the Iran Freedom

Support Act. This legislation received

strong bipartisan support when it was

passed in the International Relations

Committee last month.

I commend my colleague from Florida,

Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for introducing

this bill and working both

sides of the aisle to produce this strong

bipartisan piece of legislation.

I would also like to thank my ranking

member, TOM LANTOS, for his continued

leadership on ensuring that Iran

does not gain access to nuclear weapons.

This legislation is not the first

step towards war, like I have heard

some contend, but I believe a tightening

of the current restrictions on

Iran. We must use every tool we have,

whether it be diplomatically or economically,

to limit the development of

Iran’s nuclear weapons. Iran has shown

time and time again that they do not

respect the international community,

or the International Atomic Energy

Agency, the United Nation’s nuclear

watchdog.

Iran made a deal with the international

community when they designed

the Nuclear Nonproliferation

Treaty, and that was to not seek nuclear

weapons in exchange for civilian

nuclear technology. Iran broke this

deal 18 years ago when they began to

pursue a secret nuclear program with

the aim of producing enough material

to create nuclear weapons to threaten

the stability of the region and of the

world. We cannot allow a terrorist

state like Iran to attain such deadly

weapons.

On Monday of this week, Iranian

President Ahmadinejad vowed to press

ahead with uranium enrichment and

boasted how he did not expect the

United Nations Security Council to impose

sanctions on this terrorist state.

This legislation is needed to let our allies

know that the House of Representatives

and the United States are serious

about using economic means to isolate

Iran and ensure they end their nuclear

weapons ambitions. The permanent

five members of the Security

Council have all declared they are opposed

to Iran gaining the knowledge to

develop nuclear weapons, but words are

sometimes not enough.

When the IAEA presents its report to

the Security Council on Friday, the

members of the Security Council must

be prepared to move forward with sanctions

if Iran chooses to remain in noncompliance

of the IAEA. I hope this

House speaks with a unified voice

today to let our allies know we are serious

about stopping Iran’s pursuit of

nuclear weapons. I urge my colleagues

to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I

yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, I heard our colleague

thank Mr. PAUL of Texas for

being calm and patient. I don’t know

how much more patient we can be with

a country that supports international

terrorism as Iran does.

Let me point out, this bill does not

authorize the use of force. It does not

authorize the use of force. We can say

it over and over again. That is clearly

not getting through. But this country,

we are talking about Iran, is bent on

the destruction of our ally Israel, bent

on the destruction of our ally Israel

and the interests of the United States

in that region.

This is a peaceful way to help resolve

this issue. It will restrict access to reserves

by the mullahs in Iran to pursue

development of weapons of mass destruction

and nuclear weapons. So,

Madam Speaker, once again, I rise in

strong support of this legislation. I

hope my colleagues on both sides of the

aisle see the wisdom of this legislation

that is seen as well in the Senate, and

the President understands the wisdom

of this legislation and signs it into law.

I yield the balance of my time to my

friend, Mr. PENCE.