Madam Speaker, I rise

today in support of H.R. 282, the Iran

Freedom Support Act, and I particularly

want to join in thanking Representative

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for

her efforts on this bill. The United

States and the international community

should hold the current regime in

Iran accountable for its threatening behavior.

We do need to encourage the

Government of Iran to change.

We need to focus on the danger of allowing

the President of Iran, a man

who has repeatedly called for the destruction

of Israel and is willing to

support terrorist organizations such as

Hamas and others, to be in control of

the most dangerous weapons in the

world. This is a serious test for the

international community. Passing this

bill alone will not prevent Iran from

developing nuclear weapons. However,

it will send a message that the United

States considers any person or entity

that helps Iran develop weapons of

mass destruction to be an obstacle to

peace and security.

This bill also encourages the forces of

democracy in Iran. Among all nations

of the world, Iran has one of the longest

and strongest national heritages,

and many Iranian Americans join in

these efforts to strengthen the potential

for an Iran that proudly embraces

freedom and proudly embraces the idea

of the rule of law.

I urge my colleagues to support this

bill. It is essential to the well-being

and safety of our country, and the entire

international community that the

Iranian regime does not possess nuclear

weapons to hold the world hostage,

and that the Iranian people are

allowed to move proudly toward freedom.