I thank Mr. CROWLEY

for yielding time, Madam Speaker, and

I rise in strong support of the Iran

Freedom Support Act. I am proud to be

an original cosponsor of this important

legislation and ask for its immediate

passage.

It would be difficult to overstate the

danger Iran represents. Unchecked Iranian

nuclear proliferation, combined

with increasing support for international

terrorism, will help to further

destabilize the entire region.

Iran currently possesses ballistic

missiles capable of striking 1,200 miles

away. This places U.S. forces in this region,

moderate Islamic Arab countries

located in the region, as well as the

State of Israel in grave danger. Imagine,

if you will, if these missiles had

nuclear delivery capability.

For over two decades, the Iranian regime

has been pursuing a covert and

now overt nuclear program. It has

manufactured centrifuges, sought completion

of heavy-water reactors, and

experimented with uranium enrichment.

According to one weapons inspector,

it has already converted 45

tons of uranium into gas, enough to

build more than one nuclear bomb.

In a perfect world, we should be able

to rely on the United Nations to curb

Iranian nuclear proliferation. In a perfect

world, the eight reports by the

International Atomic Energy Agency

regarding Iran’s violation of the Nuclear

Nonproliferation Treaty would be

enough to motivate action. In a perfect

world, all of the members of the Security

Council would appreciate the seriousness

and catastrophe of a nuclear

Iran. But since we cannot count on the

international community, China and

Russia are far too interested in Iranian

oil and Iranian trade money, the

United States must step up the pressure

and do what is right.

This bill, in my opinion, accomplishes

that goal. U.S. sanctions would

dramatically increase the pressure on

the Iranian regime to give up their nuclear

ambitions and allow international

inspections of their facilities.

Since the President of Iran was elected

last summer, Iran’s stock market has

lost 40 percent of its value, there has

been a capital flight of more than $200

billion, and Iran’s manufacturing sector

is increasingly dependent on imports.

Iran is struggling financially.

This legislation will further squeeze

Iran and deny it the financial resources

to continue its path towards nuclear

armament.

There is no debate, not anywhere, not

in this body, that Iran is a radical and

fundamentalist country headed by a

President who is willing to share nuclear

technology with the most unstable

countries in the world, and by

mullahs who raise religious fanaticism

to a new art form. Every pronouncement

this President makes further

dramatizes how mentally unstable and

unbalanced and dangerous he is. The

United States must act quickly and decisively

if we are to counter the continuing

threat posed by the Iranian regime.

We must deny Iran the technology

and assistance and financial resources

it needs to pursue this unacceptable

behavior.

I have no illusions. I can’t guarantee

that the sanctions contained in this

bill will have the desired effect, but I

do know that it is a far better alternative

to invading Iran or bombing

Iran. And unlike the Iraq Freedom Act,

which many people have cited today as

a reason not to pass this particular

piece of legislation, there is nothing in

this act that we are debating today,

there is nothing in this legislation that

can be construed as authorizing use of

force against Iran, and none of the assistance

should be used to support covert

action that is contained in the legislation.