Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman

for yielding me this time and

the leaders for bringing this bill forward.

I just want to refresh the memories

of my colleagues who say we should

not take any action. It was in 1997

when we had evidence that Iran was

getting cooperation on developing a

missile system that we brought a bill

before this body called the Iran Missile

Sanctions Act. For my colleagues who

were not here, 398 Members voted

‘‘yes,’’ 98 Senators voted ‘‘yes,’’ the

White House opposed the bill, and

President Clinton vetoed the bill that

year because he said we did not need it.

Last summer, Iran paraded the

Shabab III missile system down the

streets of Tehran. It is completed. It is

the most capable offensive system in

the Middle East. We could have stopped

it and we didn’t.

Madam Speaker, for the past 3 years

I have been feeding the CIA information

about Iran’s efforts to undermine

Iraq, the Middle East, and to foment

terrorism around the world. It got so

uncomfortable that I had to write a

book. Everything that I said that I

gave to the CIA for the past 3 years is

now true: the support for Bani Sadr,

the efforts for taking two teams up

into North Korea to acquire nuclear

technology, the attempts to assassinate

Mullah al-Sastani. All of those

things are now verified, and all of them

I told the CIA and they ignored.

We do need to be aggressive with Iran

and we need an approach that does not

call for war. I am not for war with Iran.

The people of Iran are not our enemy.

It is a young nation. The people there

want to be back as friends with America

and the West. We need to work with

those Iranians in exile, and that is

what this legislation calls for.

Madam Speaker, 2 months ago I was

out in California where I spoke to the

13 largest Iranian radio and television

stations that beamed by satellite into

Iran. For 2 hours I spoke directly to

the Iranian people by satellite, 12 million

households. I came back 8 hours

later and took calls from people inside

of Iran.

Madam Speaker, 400 Iranians called

through the satellite and through cell

phones to issue their recommendations

and their questions to me live.

Madam Speaker, only 1 of 400 supported

the regime of Ahmadinejad and

Ayatollah Khomeini, who really runs

the government there. Every other

caller said we need your help, we need

to do what you did with Ukraine, you

need to help us take back our government.

You need to do what they did in

Georgia, to have an internal revolution,

to bring about change so we truly

can be friends with the West. That is

what this legislation calls for.

But there is one other point this legislation

does not focus on that I feel

strongly about, and this was mentioned

by my friend and colleague, the gentleman

from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH). The

closest nation to Iran is Russia, and

what we have to do is renew our efforts

diplomatically to have Russia play a

significant role to peacefully convince

the people of Iran to get their government

to back off of this nasty rhetoric

and of this effort to build up this offensive

capability using WMD, including

nuclear weapons. This is of vital urgency

for us. This is the number-one

threat we face in the world.

While this legislation may not be

perfect, it certainly sends a signal that

we are not going to do what we did

back in 1997. We are not going to allow

any administration to back us off from

stopping the development of technology

like the missile system that

Iran currently possesses.