Madam Speaker, let me

thank my friend for yielding me this

time.

Madam Speaker, I agree with many

of the comments that have been made

on this floor about the dilemma we

have now in Iran as a result of our policies

in Iraq. I opposed the U.S. involvement

in Iraq. I thought it was wrong.

And as one of the consequences, it has

caused us to lose focus on our war

against terror and to make it more difficult

for us to deal with Iran.

Having said that, I think this is an

important bill that we need to move

forward. It is an important effort to

make it clear that Iran cannot be permitted

to become a nuclear weapons

power.

Madam Speaker, let me point out

some of the proudest moments in U.S.

history have been the use of sanctions.

I think back about U.S. leadership and

imposing sanctions basically against

the Soviet Union which allowed people

to be able to leave that country.

I think back about the U.S. leadership

in South Africa when it was an

apartheid country and how we imposed

sanctions against South Africa and

were accused of causing problems in

doing that. But what we did was bring

down the apartheid Government of

South Africa without the necessary use

of force.

So I think it is critically important

that we stand united in our efforts to

impose sanctions against Iran to make

it clear that we cannot allow Iran to

become a nuclear weapons power. Make

no mistake about it, Iran is trying to

do that. We know Iran is trying to do

that. We know about the vote of the

IAEA of 27–3 that referred Iran to the

Security Council, that they are enriching

uranium clearly to develop a nuclear

weapon, that they have supported

terrorist organizations, the Hezbollah

and the Islamic Jihad. The Iranian

President has made it clear that he

wants a world without the United

States and he wants to wipe Israel off

the face of the map. These are serious

threats that we need to take seriously.

Therefore, we need effective sanctions

against Iran so they change their

way. This legislation is an effort to

strengthen the sanctions against Iran

by removing the sunset, by taking

away some of the discretion and removing

the sanctions unless Iran

changes its way.

Madam Speaker, I look at this as a

way to engage the international community

to work with us. We did not do

that in Iraq, and that was one of the

fatal flaws of our policy in Iraq is that

we did not engage the international

community.

This legislation says, look, we have a

chance with Iran to get them to change

their ways through the imposition of

sanctions and isolating the country,

but we do need the help of our friends

around the world. We do need them to

work with us. It is in the interest of

the civilized world to prevent Iran from

becoming a nuclear weapons power. We

need their help. Working with them, we

can add another proud history to

America in its international leadership

of saying yes, we are going to use our

international power, our diplomatic

skills, to change the direction of a

country that otherwise would become

even a more dangerous risk to the

United States and the civilized world. I

urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in

strong support of H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom

Support Act. This bill strengthens U.S. sanctions

on Iran, and requires that they remain in

place until Iran has dismantled its chemical,

biological, and nuclear weapons programs.

Iran is actively seeking weapons of mass

destruction, which poses a threat to the national

security of the United States and to the

world. Iran has repeatedly violated its obligations

to the international community, specifically

the 1973 Safeguards Agreement with the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In

2002 the world learned that Iran was illegally

continuing to develop a secret nuclear program,

which has led to years of negotiations

with the international community. Last August,

however, the Iranian government resumed its

conversion of uranium. In February the IAEA

voted 27 to 3 to report Iran to the United Nations

Security Council for further action. In

March the U.N. Security Council directed Iran

to its nuclear activities. Iran defied the United

Nations, and made an announcement that it

had enriched uranium to reactor-grade levels,

which is a precursor to the development of a

nuclear bomb. This week the U.N. Security

Council is meeting to evaluate Iran’s behavior,

and I urge the Security Council to use all the

tools at its disposal to pressure Iran to meet

its commitments to the IAEA.

I am pleased that the legislation today establishes

mandatory sanctions for contributions

to development of weapons, limits the

President’s flexibility to waive sanctions, authorizes

funding to promote democracy activities

in Iran, and supports efforts to strengthen

the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Finally,

this bill eliminates the sunset of sanctions

against Iran, and requires them to remain in

place until the President certifies that Iran has

dismantled its WMD programs.

I am pleased that the United States has

continued to work closely with the international

community—including the European Union,

Russia, and China—on this urgent matter. I

urge the President to keep Congress fully and

current informed on this matter, as called for

in this resolution. I urge the international community

to impose economic sanctions designed

to deny Iran the ability to develop nuclear

weapons.

We cannot allow a rogue nation such as

Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. Iran has actively

supported terrorist groups, such as

Hezbollah in Lebanon and Palestinian Islamic

Jihad. Iran has funded suicide bombers in

Israel and militant organizations elsewhere.

Many of these terrorist groups are seeking

weapons of mass destruction (WMD) so that

they can kill or injure thousands or even millions

of people. The Iranian President has

publicly expressed his hope for a world without

America, his desire to wipe Israel off the

map, and has denied the existence of the Holocaust.