Madam

Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me

today in supporting H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom

Support Act.

I want to thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr.

LANTOS for drafting this bill that has gathered

great support from our colleagues to address

the urgent and problematic situation in Iran.

This bill will extend and strengthen existing

sanctions designed to cut off funds Iran could

use for its illicit atomic programs.

Inspections by the International Atomic Energy

Agency (IAEA) over the past three years

have turned up evidence that Iran has been

pursuing nuclear technology for nearly two

decades. Despite recent rulings by the IAEA

Board of Governors that found Iran to be in

noncompliance with its Nuclear Nonproliferation

Treaty safeguards agreement, and a presidential

statement last month by the United

Nations Security Council that called upon Iran

to reinstitute its voluntary suspension of enrichment

and reprocessing, Iran has stated

that it will continue development of its nuclear

program.

The U.S. and our allies cannot stand by and

watch Iran develop nuclear capabilities, and

this legislation is just a first step in what must

be done to address this problem.

A state that has vowed to continue supporting

terrorist activity against the West and

the U.S., has openly stated that Israel must be

wiped off the map, and has threatened to retaliate

to international pressure and sanctions

by giving nuclear technology to other states,

must be dealt with before it has a robust nuclear

program.

Iran’s pursuit for weapons of mass destruction—

and nuclear technology in particular—

along with its outright support for international

terrorism require a strong response from our

government.

Passing H.R. 282 is a first step in addressing

this urgent situation, and I ask my colleagues

to join me in supporting this bill.

Ms. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support

of H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support

Act. For more than two decades the Iranian

regime has displayed its contempt for the rule

of law by willingly and aggressively breaching

its international obligations, in pursuit of nuclear

weapons.

The incendiary remark made by Iranian

President Ahmadinejad, that Israel is a ‘‘fake

regime [that] can not logically continue to live,’’

underscores the importance of this measure.

H.R. 282 denies technical assistance and financial

resources to the regime of President

Ahmadinejad, and strengthens sanctions

against those who would facilitate the development

of a covert nuclear program in Iran. This

bill sends a clear and unambiguous message

to Iran that their behavior is unacceptable.

The overwhelming 37–3 vote by which this

measure passed the International Relations

Committee exemplifies the bipartisan nature of

the issue.

Madam Speaker, with the proliferation of nuclear

weaponry at issue, there is neither room

for error, nor for mixed signals. The price to

be paid for inaction or indecision is beyond

consideration. This legislation is a measured,

responsible demonstration of our commitment

to ensuring the freedom of Iranians and Americans

alike.