Madam Speaker, I rise today in

strong support of Iran Freedom Support Act,

H.R. 282. I am a cosponsor of this important

legislation because I remain deeply troubled

by the current regime and situation in Iran.

It is long past time for the House to address

the security challenge posed to the world community

and our allies in the Middle East by the

current regime in Iran. The hateful and threatening

comments made by the President of

Iran against Israel cannot be tolerated. Further,

the provocative actions taken by Iran to

further their nuclear weapons program must

be stopped. A nuclear Iran would destabilize

the region and threaten the United States and

our allies. We must use every tool at our disposal

today to end Iran’s nuclear ambitions.

Iran must change its way.

This important legislation would codify bilateral

U.S. sanctions against Iran and strengthens

third-party sanctions through amendments

to the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act. H.R. 282

would make the removal of these sanctions

contingent upon a Presidential certification that

Iran no longer poses a threat to the national

security of the United States, its interests, or

allies. It would also require the Administration

to report to Congress on countries cooperating

(or not) with U.S. efforts to forge a multilateral

Iran sanctions regime. The bill would also provide

U.S. assistance to pro-democracy groups

in Iran and to independent broadcasts into

Iran from abroad.

I was troubled when I read the recent reports

about the Administration seriously considering

a nuclear attack on Iran. While I

strongly oppose Iran’s efforts to create a nuclear

weapons program, it would be unconscionable

to use nuclear weapons in an attempt

to eliminate their program. The President

must reassure the world that America remains

a responsible world power. He must

state unambiguously that the United States

will never use nuclear weapons in a first strike

against Iran or any other sovereign nation.

H.R. 282 is in keeping with United States

priorities to address the multiple threats posed

by the Iranian regime, as well as with our goal

to bring peace and stability the people of the

Middle East. I support this important legislation.