Madam

Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Iran

Freedom Support Act.

Iran’s continued pursuit of nuclear weapons,

support for international terrorist organizations,

and abhorrent human rights practices pose

one of the greatest threats to global security.

Further, the Iranian government has made

clear its intentions toward the United States.

Six months ago, Iranian President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad stated that a world without the

United States is a ‘‘possible goal and slogan’’.

This is not a veiled threat and we must take

him seriously.

Our greatest responsibility is the safety and

security of the American people. As such, we

must employ every option at our disposal to

ensure that Mr. Ahmadinejad’s stated goals

remain unattainable.

The Iran Freedom Support Act takes a responsible

and sensible approach—tightening

and codifying economic sanctions against the

Iranian regime. It will hinder Iran’s ability to acquire

nuclear weapons and fund terrorist

groups and it will send a clear signal to the

Iranian regime that it will be held accountable

for its threatening behavior.

The United States must also continue to

push the United Nations Security Council for

strong action to thwart Iran’s nuclear ambitions.

In the meantime, it is our job to take

meaningful steps to eliminate the threats

posed by Iran. And that is why I urge my colleagues

to support this bill.