Madam Speaker, I rise

today in support of H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom

Support Act. I applaud this bi-partisan effort

by Congress to address the increasing

threat posed to our country and world by Iran.

Many defense experts have predicted that

we face no greater threat from a single country

than from Iran. Iran’s leaders, including Iranian

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, have

continuously called for the destruction of

Israel, rejected overtures from the world community,

including the United Nations, supported

international terrorism, and continued to

advance their nuclear program with the announcement

on April 11 that Iran had successfully

enriched fuel-grade uranium.

All of these actions are unacceptable. We

would be remiss to ignore a country that perilously

threatens our allies and the security of

the world while simultaneously seeking to advance

its unsupervised nuclear capabilities.

We must not allow Iran to bully the world or

our allies or fail to show Iran that we will take

their irresponsible and careless behavior seriously.

H.R. 282 will help support democracy while

taking a firm stance against the radical and

reckless leaders of Iran and those that would

support them. At this time, supporting democracy

in Iran is an important ingredient to resolving

this situation peacefully. One of my top

priorities in Congress is to ensure our national

security, and I support H.R. 282 as an important

step in combating the rising risk of Iran.