Mr. Speaker, I thank

the gentleman from Indiana for yielding

me time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman,

the gentleman from New York (Mr.

GILMAN), and my very good friend, the

sponsor of this bill, the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support

of H.R. 3743, the Iran Nuclear Proliferation

Prevention Act of 1998. It is emblematic

of the serious need to pass

this bill that on July 22 of this year,

the same day that the bill was considered

and passed by the Committee on

International Relations, Iran tested a

missile capable of striking American

troops throughout the Middle East. I

do not think I have to explain to any of

my colleagues here in the House, or to

any American, for that matter, the implications

of an Iranian nuclear missile.

H.R. 3743 rightfully seeks to prevent

U.S. tax dollars from being used to help

Iran develop nuclear technology, specifically

nuclear power plants. Helping

Iran develop its nuclear technology

through U.S. taxpayer dollars, or in

any other way, is like training a

known assassin how to use an AK–47

assault rifle and expecting him to only

use it for defensive purposes.

The only reason that Iran, one of the

most oil-rich countries on the planet,

is developing nuclear power technology

is to advance its offensive missile technology

program. To think that Iran is

developing nuclear technology for civilian

power needs is naive and dangerous,

dangerous to the United States

of America.

The Iranian Shahab-3 missile, which

was successfully tested only two weeks

ago, will reportedly have a range of between

1,300 and 1,500 kilometers and be

capable of carrying a 750 to 1,000 kilogram

warhead.

According to various intelligence reports,

Russia is now helping Iran develop

its technology that will put

Shahab missiles within range of U.S.

troops throughout the Middle East. If

Iran combines their nuclear technology

with these Shahab missiles, like the

one fired just 2 weeks ago, the threat

to our troops and the region will be unthinkable.

The lives of American soldiers,

sailors, U.S. allies, and ultimately,

American citizens, would be in

needless and mortal peril.

Let us send a message to the Iranians:

The United States Congress still

has its eye on the ball. We are not

fooled by their President’s statements

of moderation, as welcome as those

statements may be; statements made,

however, at the same time they are

trying to build weapons of mass destruction.

If they want to be friends with the

United States of America they should

behave as a friend, and they should let

their actions speak louder than their

words of moderation, which contradict

their efforts to develop nuclear technology.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of

H.R. 3743.