Mr. Speaker, I yield myself

such time as I may consume.

What I want to share with the body is

that, on February 12 of 2013, North

Korea successfully carried out a nuclear

test—a test in flagrant violation

of numerous international sanctions

and of numerous agreements that

North Korea has made in the past.

This test, which is the third time

that North Korea has exploded a nuclear

device, is a stark reminder that

Kim Jong Un is determined to develop

his nuclear arsenal while depriving

North Koreans of their most basic

human rights. When I say their ‘‘most

basic human rights,’’ we had an opportunity

to speak with the former propaganda

minister of North Korea, who

told us that 1.9 million North Koreans

starved while this regime, in violating

every agreement it had made with the

international community, plowed forward

with a plan to develop nuclear

weapons.

North Korea has literally spent billions

on its nuclear and its three-stage

ICBM program, and that is all money

that could have provided enough food

to feed this country for years. If you’ve

ever been in North Korea, you’ve seen

that the children there are malnourished.

As a matter of fact, up to 50 percent

of the children are so malnourished

that it is estimated that it’s

going to affect their future development

and their ability to really think

conceptually because of the degree of

deprivation there.

In the meantime, it also continues to

build up its military. This week’s test

comes only 2 months after the launch

of a North Korean intercontinental

missile, leaving no doubt in my mind

that decades of fruitless negotiations,

frankly, have been a failure.

North Korea is a pariah state that

has attacked its neighbors many times.

Just last month, Ranking Member

ELIOT ENGEL of New York and I had the

opportunity to visit the wreckage of

the South Korean naval vessel

Cheonan, and there we saw the evidence

where 46 South Korean sailors

lost their lives in 2011—victim to a

North Korean torpedo that was fired at

that ship. I cannot imagine the anguish

that this despicable act has caused for

so many of those parents of those

young sailors in South Korea.

The shared sacrifice that South Koreans

and Americans have endured as a

result of North Korean aggression is a

sacred, inseparable bond between our

two peoples. This resolution appropriately

stands by South Korea and

Japan, our allies in northeast Asia.

As North Korea continues to disregard

international norms, it’s important

for this House to speak out, but

we must do more. In the coming weeks,

I will introduce legislation that targets

North Korea’s ability to access hard

currency.

In my conversations with President

Lee Myung-bak of South Korea and

President-elect Park Geun-hye, I have

always stressed the importance of targeted

sanctions so that we can bring

about change inside North Korea. When

dictators cannot pay their generals,

they cannot test nuclear weapons and

launch missiles. This was an important

lesson of the financial sanctions we put

on Banco Delta Asia and other banks

in the past that have dealt with the

North Korean regimes; and, as a result

of that imposition at the time, it

brought to a halt the ability of the

North Korean regime to pay its generals. Mr. Speaker, America’s policy on

North Korea has been a bipartisan failure.

We can no longer just hope that

North Korea is going to give up its

weapons in exchange for aid. It is time

we come together to hold this regime

responsible for all the pain and suffering

that it has caused, and do so by

imposing this access to hard currency

restriction. I cannot envision a scenario

where Kim Jong Un voluntarily

gives up the one weapon that, frankly,

keeps his dynasty in power.

Reports indicate that North Korea’s

nuclear program is getting more powerful

and its missiles are flying further.

If North Korea is allowed to continue

down this path, frankly, we all lose.

The time to act is now.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself

such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to urge

my colleagues to support this resolution

condemning North Korea’s nuclear

test. This threat, I would point out, is

not just a threat to Northeast Asia; it’s

a global threat that demands our attention.

North Korea has demonstrated a willingness—

in the past they’ve demonstrated

a clear ability to proliferate

nuclear and missile technology. We

think about their proliferation to

countries, nuclear proliferation to

Syria. We think about their nuclear

technology and their missile technologies

for proliferation to Iran.

We cannot wait for the next nuclear

test, Mr. Speaker, or the news that

North Korea has successfully miniaturized

a nuclear weapon. We already saw

the statement that this was a smaller

nuclear weapon in the past. We saw the

official KCNA news outlet for the

North Korean regime make the statement

that their target for their ICBM

program was the United States.

Lastly, many of us remember the

video that came out last week, that

very odd video that shows a North Korean

sleeping, dreaming about an ICBM

attack. The ICBM is launched. It ends

up following the curvature of the Earth

and hitting New York City in this

video with that very odd background

music playing. But it just shows an attitude.

I think that we cannot stand idle and

tell ourselves that further sanctions

have no prospect of success, especially

when we saw how effective, for that

brief period of time where the Treasury

Department was so concerned about

the counterfeiting of $100 bills that

they actually forced deployment of

those financial sanctions on those institutions

which the North Koreans

used in order to have access to hard

currency.

We saw, at that time, the result and

the protest from North Korea, and the

result inside North Korea when there

was not the money to pay the military

or carry out the types of programs that

they do in terms of their missile and

nuclear testing.

So it’s time to be honest with the

American people that, frankly, our current

North Korean policy is not working.

It hasn’t worked for a long time.

Going forward, we need to move away

from that failed North Korean policy

to one with energy and creativity and

focus. And I think we need to learn

from what worked in the past until,

unfortunately, those sanctions were

lifted shortly after they were deployed

because of the protests from North

Korea.

So let’s tackle North Korea’s illicit

activities, its missile and drug proliferation,

where, between that and its

counterfeit currency program, that’s

how it gets close to 50 percent of its

hard currency. This regime will do anything

for money, obviously. As South

Koreans will tell you, it’s a gangster

regime.

But let’s interfere with those shipments.

Let’s disrupt the bank accounts

that are used. Let’s ramp up the radio

broadcasts into the country, where

there is evidence the information wall

is cracking. Thirty-seven percent of

those people that flee the regime today

say they’re listening to broadcasts or

they’re accessing information that is

telling them about what’s happening in

the outside world and what’s really

going on in their own country. And

that’s the kind of information we have

to get into this regime.

Let’s help the refugees who are literally

dying to escape the prison above

the 38th parallel. Weakening the regime

is the only way to make the Korean

Peninsula secure. So we must

come together and do whatever is necessary

to deprive Kim Jong Un of his

nuclear weapons.

I yield back the balance of my time.