Mr. Speaker, I rise in

strong support of House Concurrent

Resolution 467, declaring genocide in

Darfur, Sudan.

I want to commend the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for introducing

this important legislation. I

want to personally thank the gentleman

from Illinois (Chairman HYDE)

and his staff and the gentleman from

Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) for ensuring

that this resolution reached the floor

in an expedited manner. I want to also

thank the leadership for allowing this

to come up so quickly.

I also want to thank the gentleman

from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the

gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE)

and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr.

TANCREDO) and their staffs for their

continued focus on Darfur. I am proud

that this resolution has the support of

so many Members standing side by side

for the people of Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, I first stood on the floor

of the House last March to highlight

the situation in Darfur and to call the

world’s attention to the ongoing

slaughter of innocent civilians. At that

time, thousands were dead and predictions

of more death were certain;

and since then the world has finally

awakened to what is occurring. Articles

have been written, protesters arrested,

newspapers have carried the

story on the front pages. Now we all

know, all the world now knows what is

occurring in Darfur, and we must act

to stop it. Failure to do so will cost

more lives.

Unfortunately, the situation worsens

on a daily basis. An estimate of 1,000

lives are now being lost every day. The

situation has escalated to the point

that I can now firmly say that I believe

that genocide is taking place, and we

all have a responsibility and a duty to

the people of Darfur to try to stop it in

its tracks.

I went to Darfur with Senator

BROWNBACK. We met the people. We

heard their stories. I listened to the

women tell us who had been raped over

and over. The people of Darfur are suffering.

Historically, in past cases, the world

has been slow to act when faced with

genocide, but today it is different.

Today we stand here in the House, the

people’s body, staring genocide in the

face. And today we know what is occurring

and we are not afraid to call it

what it is, genocide. The international

community now has a moral and a

legal obligation to stop what is occurring

and bring those responsible to justice.

I want to commend the United States

for taking the lead to help end the crisis.

Secretary Powell, I want to thank

him and Secretary-General Annan.

They are to be commended for going to

Darfur. I also want to commend the

United States Agency for International

Development and the team which has

people on the ground.

The United States must continue to

speak out, and I am proud tonight that

for the first time when genocide is taking

place, the people’s House is speaking

out. Every other time the resolutions

took place after it was over and

all the people were dead.

I want to thank the Members on this

side and the gentleman from New Jersey

(Mr. PAYNE) for all his efforts from

way, way back, and all of them over

there and the Members on this side.

This is very important to speak out for

the voiceless, those who have no voice.