Madam Speaker, I come

to this floor at a time of extraordinary

moment on the global stage. According

to the Islamic Republic News Agency,

the official news agency of Iran, President

Mahmud Ahmadinejad, supposedly

won the election over his primary opponent

on 12 June 2009.

But from the very moment that that

election result was announced, the

international community and the

international press called it into question,

and the bases for that, even before

the extraordinary demonstrations

had begun to take place, is the fact

that these were paper ballots, but the

official government results of the election

were announced literally within

hours of the polls being closed.

Various media outlets around the

world have questioned the authenticity

of the results. Mr. Mousavi, the defeated

candidate, has launched a legal

appeal against the election results. On

the day of the election, mobile phone

communications were interrupted.

Western media has reported ‘‘heavy

electronic jamming’’ disturbing broadcasts.

News Web sites were reportedly

blocked by Iranian authorities, and the

Iranian Government has allegedly arrested

opposition political figures and

journalists.

The Iranian Government has outlawed

any protests following 2 days of

extraordinary unrest. The BBC recently

reported that recent rallies in

the streets of Tehran were the biggest

demonstrations in the Islamic Republic’s

30-year history. The protests, according

to news reports, became violent,

and according to media reports,

pro-government forces attacked demonstrators

in the last 24 hours, causing

at least one fatality.

We are witnessing a Tiananmen in

Tehran, and the United States of

America must stand in the gap on behalf

of those brave Iranian citizens who

are standing for free and fair elections,

democracy, and basic rights. Freedom,

in fact, may be flowering in Iran, as

hundreds of thousands rally for democracy

and free elections.

And while I appreciate President

Obama’s comments yesterday at the

White House that he was ‘‘troubled by

the violence,’’ and his belief that the

voices of the Iranian people should be

‘‘heard and respected,’’ it seems by my

likes that this administration has yet

to express the unqualified support of

the American people for those who are

courageously taking to the streets for

free elections and for democracy in

Iran.

Let me say from my heart, the American

cause is freedom, and in this

cause, the American people will not be

silent, here or abroad. If the President

of the United States won’t express the

unqualified support of our Nation for

the dissidents in the streets of Tehran,

this Congress must.

Today, I am introducing a resolution

that will do just that. It will express

its concern regarding the reported

irregularities of the presidential elections

of 12 June 2009; condemn the violence

against demonstrators by progovernment

militias in Tehran in the

wake of the election; it will affirm our

belief in the universality of individual

rights and the importance of democratic

and fair elections; and lastly and

most importantly, Madam Speaker, it

will express the support of the American

people for all Iranian citizens who

struggle for freedom, civil liberties,

and the protection of the rule of law.

Believe it or not, in my small town of

Columbus, Indiana, I grew up next door

to a Hungarian immigrant who fled

Hungary in the wake of the Soviet repression

of the Hungarian Revolution

in 1956. I sat often with Julius Perr,

now passed away, and heard of the way

the Hungarian people, inspired by our

calls for freedom, stood up for their

own freedom. And as Bret Stephens recounts

in today’s Wall Street Journal,

We stood by idly, we didn’t want to

interfere, and the Soviet tanks rolled.

We cannot stand idly by, speak of

Iran sovereignty, speak of their own

right to choose their own leadership at

a time when hundreds of thousands of

Iranians are risking their liberty, and

even their lives, to stand for free elections

and democracy.

Ronald Reagan said, There is no arsenal

or no weapon in the arsenals of the

world so formidable as the will and

moral courage of free men and women.

All of us desire a fresh start with Iran,

and it seems from news reports and the

extraordinary images coming from the

streets of Iran that millions of Iranians

long for a new start in their government.

There is a reformist movement

afoot in Iran.

Today, I will introduce a resolution.

I urge all of my colleagues in both parties

to join me in expressing support

for these brave and courageous men

and women.