Madam Speaker, last

week, the Congressional Human Rights

Commission met with defectors from

North Korea and we heard firsthand

how the people of North Korea continue

to suffer terribly at the hands of

the cruel dictatorship there.

It is vital that the international

community and the United States take

more specific, deliberate action aimed

at helping the suffering people of North

Korea. There are numerous reports of

the suffering going on inside North

Korea; prison camps, severe torture,

slave labor, forced abortions, and almost

certain death for those who have

tried to escape and have been forced to

return.

The U.S. Congress passed the North

Korea Human Rights Act to provide a

stronger foundation for the U.S. to

help the North Korean people. Unfortunately,

that act has not been implemented

to the fullest extent possible.

The North Korean people need to

hear the message that they are not

alone, that they are not forgotten, and

that there are many in the United

States and around the world who deeply

care about their plight and are

working to help them.

We look forward to the day when we

can visit a free North Korea and see

the people living with human rights

and dignity.