Mr. President, I would

like to express my serious concern

about Iran’s continuing efforts to obtain

missile technology.

It has been widely reported that Iran

has produced chemical weapons and is

actively pursuing the development of

biological and nuclear weapons. When

these deadly technologies are coupled

with advanced ballistic missiles, they

become true weapons of mass destruction,

posing a grave and direct threat

to U.S. troops stationed in the Persian

Gulf are as well as our key ally in the

Middle East, the State of Israel.

Iran’s quest to develop ballistic missiles

has been aided by several Russian

corporations, who have sold Iran key

technology and provided important

technical support. Public reports indicate

that Iran is extremely close to deploying

advanced ballistic missiles. If

we fail to take meaningful action

quickly, Iran could deploy chemicaltipped

ballistic missiles within one

year.

Congress reacted appropriately to

this threat by passing the Iran Missile

Proliferation Sanctions Act in May by

a vote of 90–4. The bill would impose

sanctions on individual companies—not

governments—that assist Iran in developing

ballistic missile technology.

To its credit, the government of Russia,

after considerable prodding from

the U.S. State Department, has taken

meaningful steps toward halting the

export of sensitive technology. Unfortunately,

these measures alone are not

sufficient to freeze the Iranian missile

program. The Iran Missile Proliferation

Sanctions Act is needed.

I regret the Administration’s decision

to veto this important bill. I understand

its view that the Executive

Branch alone should attempt to resolve

this issue. However, I believe the proliferation

of weapons of mass destruction

is an issue of such tremendous importance

that legislation is warranted.

I hope the Majority Leader will

schedule a vote on the veto message

soon, and I hope my colleagues will

continue to show strong support for the

Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions.