Mr. President, as the

ranking member of the Senate Foreign

Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern

and South Asian Affairs, I want to

express my deep concern about recent

developments in Iran.

Today, the International Atomic Energy

Agency is meeting to discuss a

proper response to findings that Iran

has failed to disclose many nuclear related

activities in violation of the Non-

Proliferation Treaty. This is a serious

issue. There is no doubt that Iran is in

violation of its commitments under the

NPT. The IAEA Board of Governors

must insist that Iran come into complete

compliance with its obligations,

disclose all information about its nuclear

program, and allow unrestricted

access to IAEA inspectors. Given the

high degree of enriched uranium found

in Iran—weapons grade uranium—and

yesterday’s statement from Iran indicating

that it planned to resume enrichment,

this matter should immediately

be referred to the United Nations

Security Council for further action.

I am also deeply troubled by Iran’s

terribly flawed elections of February

20. The people of Iran deserve our support

and they deserve true democratic

reform. We cannot turn our backs on

the people of Iran because its political

leadership has failed them. There are

an estimated 700,000 Iranian Americans

living in California who are so hopeful

for democratic change in their homeland.

The election of February 20 was

clearly a step in the wrong direction.

On February 12, the Senate passed an

important resolution, S. Res. 304, that

was submitted that same day by Senator

BROWNBACK. Denouncing the elections

as harmful for true democratic

forces in Iran, the resolution stated

that the policy of the United States

should be to advocate a democratic

government in Iran that will restore

freedom to the people of Iran, abandon

terrorism, protect human rights, and

live in peace and security with the

international community. I fully agree.

I hope that the Iranian people know

that they have the support of the Senate

as they aspire for the freedom denied

them by the current Iranian regime.