Madam President,

I thank my colleagues for this opportunity

to speak.

Later today, President Khatami of

Iran will be speaking at the National

Cathedral. I hope he is asked and he

answers a number of questions about

what happened during his reign of terror

in Iran.

President Khatami was the President

of Iran, the lead sponsor of terrorism

around the world.

President Khatami was President of

Iran, a country that seeks to have the

United States bow down in front of

Iran and to Iran.

President Khatami worsened the

human rights record in Iran to its own

people. As we speak right now, a press

conference is going on at the National

Press Club of Iranians who have somehow

gotten out of that country who

were tortured under President Khatami

and President Ahmadi-Nejad, the current

President of Iran.

I hope that as we deliberate the Department

of Defense appropriations

bill, we recognize this threat. This is a

country, Iran, that seeks to destroy

Israel, seeks to attack and destroy the

West, seeks to have us bow down. I will

read the quote from President Ahmadi-

Nejad that he said in July. He called on

America and the West to bow before

Iran saying:

Those are his words. We will not bow

down. We are in a war on terrorism. We

are in a war against Islamic fascism,

which this is a statement of. I hope we

recognize that. In the war on terrorism,

terrorism is their tactic, and

they use it through Hezbollah and

Hamas, which Iran is supporting and

operating. They direct it at us. We

have to confront this and we have to

confront this Islamic fascism. What

they seek to establish is a militant dictatorship,

an Islamic fascist dictatorship.

This group has an object. They

don’t just wander around. Step 1 is to

remove the United States from the

Middle East. Step 2 is to establish an

Islamic caliphate. This is an Islamic

dictator over an entire region—a Shia

crescent over an entire region of the

world. These are his words. This is

what they seek. They seek a nuclear

weapon to be able to threaten the region,

to be able to use in this region.

Ayatollah Khamenei, the lead sponsor

and organizer of the current Islamic

Republic, in 1979, removing the Shah,

came in and said if we destroy Israel,

Allah will reward us. This is a governing

theological philosophy that has

not been walked away from by the current

leadership in Iran. Let’s listen to

the words they say themselves.

Former President Khatami is going

to be speaking in Washington, DC, tonight.

He said in October 2000:

This is October 2000. He should be

asked, does he still believe that statement

or support that statement.

Today, I will be introducing the Iran

Human Rights Act, legislation designed

to focus our attention on the

human rights abuses taking place in

Iran today and support the efforts of

the Iranian people to enact peaceful,

democratic reforms.

While we have been focusing on the

nuclear weapon development by the

Iranians and on their support for terrorism,

we should not forget about the

plight of the Iranian people and their

difficulties under this regime. The bill

creates a special envoy to focus on

human rights abuses in Iraq and to

work with groups who support human

rights and democracy in Iran.

The bill provides financial supports

to these groups supporting human

rights and that are working toward democracy

in Iran. Finally, it ensures

that the United States broadcast into

Iran emphasize U.S. support for the

rights and well-being of the Iranian

people. We need to focus on the nuclear

weapons, and we also need to focus on

the rights of the Iranian people being

abused by this regime. It is also my

hope that we will grant visas to this

country to professors being kicked out

of universities in Iran because they

don’t tow the line of the ruling clerics

in that country. Currently, the universities

are being purged in Iran of the

dissident voices of these professors.

We stand with the Iranian people. We

stand against this Iranian tyrannical

regime. I hope we can move this legislation

forward to show our support for

the suffering people. I ask the people

who go to the meetings where President

Khatami is speaking to ask these

questions:

Why did he support terrorism? Why

did the human rights record get worse

under his 8 years of leadership in Iran?

Why do they persecute religious minorities

and women? Why do they persecute

those who have peaceful protests

inside Iran? Why does Iran need

to enrich uranium when they have

plentiful oil and gas supplies? These

are serious questions in serious times.

I hope that as we consider this Department

of Defense bill, we will consider

what the words of those who have

vowed to destroy us are and that we

take appropriate action against them.

I yield the floor.