Mr. President, as an

original cosponsor of the Iran Missile

Proliferation Sanctions Act, I cannot

stress enough the importance of this

legislation and I am grateful that it is

now being considered before the full

Senate.

Iran’s desire to obtain ballistic missiles

is a direct threat to peace and security

in the Middle East, and therefore,

a clear threat to U.S. national security.

Limiting the spread of weapons

of mass destruction and ensuring stability

in this strategic region must remain

among the highest priorities for

the U.S. and our allies.

Iran is a leading sponsor of international

terrorism and has been linked

to numerous bombings, hijackings, and

assassinations. This rogue nation provides

financial support and political

training for terrorist groups such as

the Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and

Hezbollah. Just this week, the Argentine

government announced they have

proof that Iran was behind the 1992

bombing of the Israeli Embassy and the

1994 bombing of the Jewish Community

Center in Buenos Aires.

According to news reports, Iran is

months away from developing missiles

that can reach Israel, Saudi Arabia, or

the frontiers of the NATO alliance.

Considering that Iran is already suspected

of possessing chemical and biological

weapons and is trying to acquire

nuclear weapons capability, the

threat of Iran possessing missiles capable

of reaching U.S. forces in the Middle

East is truly frightening.

This legislation would require the

President to report periodically on individuals,

companies, and research facilities

who have provided material,

technology, or technical assistance

that could help Iran develop ballistic

missiles. Once these suppliers have

been identified, they would be subject

to sanctions making them ineligible

for export licenses and U.S. aid.

I believe this legislation will be a

valuable tool in slowing Iran’s program

to develop ballistic missiles. I hope

that the Senate overwhelmingly passes

this legislation, and I want to thank

the Majority Leader, Senator LOTT, for

all his hard work on this important

issue.