

have decided to leave town for almost 40 days with a long list of unfinished business: postal reform, the Violence Against Women reauthorization, the farm bill, comprehensive jobs legislation, the Make It in America agenda, a balanced and big plan to solve our deficit, and tax cuts for the middle class.

We should remain here and do the work the American people sent us to do.

□ 1750

JOBS.GOP.GOV

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. I have come down to the floor just to remind my colleagues and you, Mr. Speaker, that if you go to jobs.gop.gov you will see a list of 25 bills that have been passed in this Chamber to do a couple of things: to boost competitiveness in the manufacturing sector; encouraging entrepreneurship in government; to help pay down our debt; and my favorite is maximizing American energy production. Yes, using American energy and our resources to create jobs, like the Keystone XL pipeline. We passed numerous bills to move the Keystone XL pipeline, 20,000 immediate jobs.

Mr. Speaker, you can go to jobs.gop.gov to check the 25 different bills that we have passed in this Chamber. We have done our work. We will continue to do our work. Obviously, we need the other Chamber to be somewhat functional and at least consider these bills and then move to conference, which is how a bill becomes a law.

NO TAX CUT FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, you have controlled the House for 19 months. The Republican majority has simply failed to lead. And more importantly, you are incapable of governing for the middle class—the middle class, the people who help build this great Nation. This week we had the opportunity to provide a tax cut for 100 percent of these Americans, those individuals earning less than \$200,000 and less than \$250,000 for a family. But once again, the Republican majority wanted it their way.

And what was your way? You wanted to pass tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, your friends. And what does that do? It adds \$1 trillion to our deficit and debt over the next 10 years. How many times has the majority said time and time again about the deficit and debt. And what do you do? You pass the tax cuts that are going to add \$1 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, it's about time that we step back and we realize that we are

here to serve and the fact that we must take care of the majority, the wonderful middle class.

NEVADA'S SALES TAX

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, Congress must do right by Nevada's middle class families and make permanent the sales tax deduction, a measure that benefits so many middle class families in Nevada. Over 300,000 Nevadans claimed \$456 million in deductions for State and local sales tax in 2009 alone. Nevada is one of only nine States that has no State income tax and, instead, revenue is raised through a sales tax.

Nevadans should be able to deduct their sales tax from their Federal income tax, just as citizens from income tax States do now. The sales tax deduction helps families across Nevada by leaving more money in their pockets. This creates jobs, stimulates economic growth, and keeps money in their pockets.

It's a matter of priority, Mr. Speaker. We must make the sales tax deduction permanent in order to give middle tax families the certainty of knowing they will have extra money in their pockets to put food on their table, gas in their cars, and be able to pay the mortgage on their family home.

RAISING TAXES ON MILITARY FAMILIES

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House unfortunately passed a tax bill that will raise taxes on 25 million families, including many military families. And that is, in a word, outrageous. We see strenuous objections from the majority to fairly tax the superwealthy; but we don't hear a peep about placing an extra tax burden on our middle class families, including members of our military whose families are actually struggling in this economy.

Under the majority's tax bill, an E-1 sailor in the Navy with 2 years' service with a spouse and three young children at home would see a tax increase of \$1,096. A private in the U.S. Army in her first year of service who is married with an infant child would see a \$273 tax increase.

As the ranking member of the House Military Personnel Subcommittee, I want to know why we are asking those who have given so much for our country to give even more while we ask the wealthiest Americans to sacrifice nothing. Our military families deserve much better than that, and so do the American people.

THE DO-NOTHING REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, can you believe it—Republicans are on their planes, trains, and automobiles headed out of Washington for a month when they haven't provided tax cuts for middle class Americans and for small businesses. That's right, Mr. Speaker: absent without cause, AWOL, while the American people wait.

And here they are, we had a chance to provide tax cuts for middle-income families. We had a chance to make sure that middle-income families aren't stretched in this economy; but, instead, they've added nearly \$1 trillion to our deficit and debt over the next 10 years because they are interested in protecting millionaires and billionaires. And now they're high-tailing it out of Washington.

Well, I can't believe it. Republicans are leaving with the postal service in default; the Violence Against Women Act not reauthorized, leaving domestic violence victims in limbo; jobs legislation undone, leaving Americans who want to work out of work.

Well, Jiminy Cricket, Mr. Speaker, what is going on with this do-nothing Congress, with this do-nothing Republican Congress? The American people deserve more, and it's time to get back to work.

APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, of the following individual from private life to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House for a term of 6 years:

Mr. C. Kurt Dewhurst, Michigan

IT'S A SPENDING PROBLEM, NOT A REVENUE PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my good friend from Virginia.

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN OF THE CHINOOK HELICOPTER CRASH

Mr. RIGELL. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute, to honor, and to remember and celebrate the lives of American heroes. We're approaching a most sobering anniversary, August 6. This is the day 1 year ago when a Chinook helicopter crashed in Afghanistan, taking with it the lives of

so many, including five soldiers, three airmen, and 24 SEALs. It marks the most serious and heaviest loss of life for our SEAL community in their illustrious service to our country. Families across our Nation are hurting and will hurt not only on the anniversary but just as they remember their loved one.

So it is with great humility and just deep appreciation to the families of the fallen, our Gold Star families, to pause for a moment to rise and to honor their loved one.

Our colleague from Iowa, STEVE KING, entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a poem that was written specifically for this occasion. And I appreciate my colleague yielding just for the few minutes it will take to read the poem.

□ 1800

It is with a grateful heart that I read this poem, and I thank my colleague, Mr. KING, for entering it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is written from the vantage point of the following:

WE STOOD!

We!
WE STOOD!
WE STOOD, so you can sleep!
While, out across our Nation our Mothers now so weep!
WE FOUGHT, so you can live!
All in such blessed peace—that which our most selfless sacrifice so gives!
As all in such pain and headache our families must now so live!
WE STOOD, so you could sleep!
Upon that Bed of Freedom so very sweet!
As to all of you, our promises WE Did So Keep!
As it was all for you, our bodies Now So Sleep!
So Sleep, all in such cold dark quiet graves so very deep!
WE GAVE!
All of Our Most Precious Lives!
While, all of our Brothers In Arms did so weep . . . and not ask why!
As WE so raised our hands so way up high!
And so swore to pledge our most precious lives!
To Make A Stand!
To Make A Difference With It All!
As WE so gave That Last Full Measure While Standing Tall!
As WE died and bled!
To so keep all of our most solemn vows of honor, said!
As why out across our Nation Our FAMILIES Now So Weep!
All But For The Greater Good, WE so gave all we could!
AS WE STOOD!
As WE pray now to our Lord their fine souls to so keep!
For THEY So Stood For What Was Right!
All with their most brilliant souls so burning bright!
As THEY died, all for that Old Red White and Blue this sight!
As into that face of evil, THEY so marched off casting their most heroic lights!
To so go forth, all in such a most brilliant force to fight!
For THEY'D, MUCH RATHER HAVE DIED FOR SOMETHING!
THAN TO HAVE LIVED FOR NOTHING AT ALL!
FOR STRENGTH IN HONOR!
Was but THEIR most sacred battle cry . . . call!

Because, moments . . . are all that WE so have!

To Make A Difference!
To Hear That Call!
To Change The World!
To go off so boldly with flags unfurled!
Troops mount up, as Heaven calls!
Move on! Move out!
As there are 30 more new Angels, In The Army of Our Lord . . .

To fight that battle, who shall not pause!
To so watch over us all!
And then there comes a gentle rain, their tears will wash down upon us so to remain!
To ease our pain, so we won't have to cry anymore!

As forever in our hearts YOUR most sacred names,

WE will carry ALL!
Because, YOU died so WE can sleep!
Upon, That Bed of Freedom . . . YOUR Gift of Peace!

As now WE LAY YOUR FINE BODIES down to rest, to sleep!
BECAUSE YOU STOOD!
Amen!

Mr. Speaker, this very special poem is entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and it was written by Albert Carey Caswell. I have the privilege of representing a wonderful district, Mr. Speaker, home of a lot of heroes. These are good men, and you'd never know how they serve and what they do. We are deeply grateful for their service and for all servicemembers across this great land.

We stand with the families of the fallen, our Gold Star families, and we ask God to give them a special measure of comfort and peace on this anniversary.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding to me.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you being with us this afternoon and giving me the opportunity to come down here and talk about where we have been this week on Capitol Hill trying to find a pathway forward.

Now, as with every decision we make, Mr. Speaker, as you know, you and I have been here for 18 months with a voting card in hand, trying to make those decisions for our constituents back home, trying to bring their voice to be heard on Capitol Hill, and we're facing one of those choices right here today.

Which lane will we choose, Mr. Speaker?

We proposed, passed today here in the House in a bipartisan way a proposal that will create 1 million new jobs. Now, I'm going to go on and bring out some other studies and where those jobs are coming from. But one of the folks we're going to hear from that's going to confirm the job-creation opportunities that exist in this proposal is going to be President Barack Obama because he will have stood about 10 feet behind me in a State of the Union address just 18 short months ago and advocated in favor of this job-creation proposal.

I don't know what has changed in 18 months, Mr. Speaker, but what we saw here on the floor of the House today is our Democratic colleagues advocating

for a different choice. A choice that Ernst & Young in an independent analysis of legislative proposals said will destroy 710,000 jobs. It will lose the opportunity to employ 710,000 Americans. As we are hearing what is unquestionably the worst recession in my lifetime, and when presented with a choice between creating a million new jobs or losing 710,000 others, we are faced with a choice.

The House made the right choice today, Mr. Speaker. The House chose to create 1 million new jobs. But just in the last 7 days, the Senate made the wrong choice. The Senate chose a path that study after study after study shows us results in failure. Why is that, Mr. Speaker? Why is that?

What I have here, Mr. Speaker, is a chart you'll remember from our budget debate. I'm just so proud, I serve on the Budget Committee here in the House, Mr. Speaker. And, you know, we've brought two budgets to the floor. In the short 18 months that I've served here in Congress, we've brought two budgets to the floor that made tough decisions. Tough decisions.

When you're running \$1.4 trillion deficits, Mr. Speaker, and when you're trying to create jobs for a Nation that's hurting, when you're trying to prevent job-killing tax hikes from being imposed on American job creators, there're no easy decisions. They're tough decisions, and they have consequences.

But this is what I learned in our budget debate. What I have here is a chart that shows tax revenue from 1947, just after World War II, all of the way out to 2077, about 130 years of tax revenue. And what we'll see, Mr. Speaker, is tax revenue that's actually come in represented by this green line, and then the tax revenue that's projected to come in. You'll see that's a flat line. It's taxes as a percent of GDP, and what we see is whether we operated America with some of the highest tax rates in history, and we've had 90 percent income tax rates in this country—90 percent income tax rates—or whether we operate America with the lowest income tax rates in this Nation's history, we bring in about the same amount of money either way.

I know that's not intuitive. I could bring up chart after chart after chart that shows how it's true. I can show what happened in the Kennedy years when he cut those top marginal rates and more revenue came in. We can look at what happened in the Reagan years when we cut those top marginal rates and more revenue came in. And we can look at what happened in the Bush years when we cut those marginal rates and more revenue came in, over and over and over again.

But rather than dwell on those charts, Mr. Speaker, I just want you to see that over time, revenue is relatively constant. Americans are willing to give the Federal Government about 18 percent of the size of the economy. And if the government asks for

more than that, Americans change their behavior so they don't have to give it.

But the red line, Mr. Speaker, represents spending in this country, spending going back to just after World War II, going out to where we are here today and a projection forward based on current law. Based on current law, Mr. Speaker. Folks look at this chart and they see this giant red line, government spending as a percent of GDP as it threatens to consume all of American GDP, and they think: Golly, what in the world. Who are the crazy people proposing that we do that? Who are they?

□ 1810

Mr. Speaker, that's what happens if we do nothing. If we fail to proactively offer a solution, if we fail to confront the challenges that are facing this country with respect to spending, if we do not act, this is what we get. No President need sign a law to create this dangerous circumstance; the laws have already been signed.

The question is: What are we going to do about it, Mr. Speaker? We don't have a taxation problem in this country in terms of needing to tax Americans more; we have a spending problem in this country in terms of the Federal Government needing to spend less.

And just to put that in sharp relief, Mr. Speaker, I've reflected here in this green the path to prosperity. This is debt as a share of the economy. This is America's debt as a share of the economy.

You remember when we had all hands on deck in World War II, when we were literally fighting for the future of the world, debt crested 100 percent of GDP. We borrowed an amount equal to the entire size of the United States economy. Well, we're right back there today, Mr. Speaker, we will be over the next decade. And if we do nothing again, that spending will create a debt pattern that will completely consume not just all of the revenue, it will consume all of the wealth of this country.

If we took everything from everybody, Mr. Speaker, if we confiscated every stock and every bond, if we confiscated every small business and every large business, if we took everybody's bank account and took everything out from under their mattress, if we sold everyone's car, everyone's home, we still wouldn't have enough money to pay for the promises that previous Congresses have made to America.

It's a spending problem; it's not a revenue problem. But this green line, Mr. Speaker, represents the budget that you and I and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle came together to pass. It's not about blaming folks. Did all of this red line come from previous Congresses before I got here? You better believe it. But it's not about finding out who was to blame in those previous 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years; it's about finding out who's going to offer the solution to get

us out of this mess. And you know who it is, Mr. Speaker? It's this freshman class that you and I have the great fortune of being a part of. It's the conservatives who have served in this Congress, calling out in the wilderness time and time again, the senior leaders of this conference, and this Congress who are going to come together and provide solutions.

This green line represents not just a proposal that one man wrote, not just an idea that maybe 10 or 15 people agree on. This green line, this solution represents the budget that passed this United States House of Representatives in a bipartisan fashion.

Don't let folks tell you it's hopeless, Mr. Speaker. Is it dire? Yes, it is. But we have proffered solutions, we have debated solutions, and we have passed, on the floor of this House, solutions. The problem is not that taxes are too low in this country; the problem is that spending is too high in this country, and we have offered solutions to that. That's been the debate on the floor of the House this week.

Before I get into the debate that we've actually had this week, Mr. Speaker, I've brought a chart of who benefits from tax loopholes. Who benefits from tax loopholes? We talk a lot about tax loopholes.

I'm a cosponsor of the Fair Tax, Mr. Speaker. I'm a big believer in the Fair Tax, the fundamental tax reform proposal. It has more sponsors than any other fundamental tax proposal in the House or in the Senate. It's H.R. 25 here in the House. It proposes that we turn our tax system on its head, to stop punishing people for what they've earned and begin to tax people based on what they spend.

If you're going out and you're buying a brand new Mercedes, I don't care what kind of job you have, you can afford to pay the tax. If you're driving a used Ford Festiva, I don't care how much money you earn, you're plowing that money back into the economy instead of taking it out.

This is what we see. Who benefits from tax loopholes? The bottom 20 percent, Mr. Speaker, get next to nothing from tax loopholes. The bottom 40 percent, Mr. Speaker, you see, get nothing from tax loopholes. The bottom 60 percent, the bottom 80 percent get next to nothing in terms of tax loopholes. The top 20 percent, Mr. Speaker, that finally starts to show up on the chart. But it's the top 1 percent of all income earners who benefit the most from all the tax loopholes. In this case, it's just over \$250,000 each.

Now, why is that? I'm not picking on our top 1 percent. The top 1 percent pays about 40 percent of all the income taxes in this country. The top 1 percent pays 40 percent of all the income taxes. The bottom 50 percent pays zero. If the bottom 50 percent is paying zero, that means the top 50 percent has to pick up the whole tab. We pay more on the top 1 percent. So it only makes sense that if you have a complicated Tax Code

that allows for lots of loopholes, exemptions, deductions, and carve-outs, those loopholes, exemptions, deductions, and carve-outs are going to benefit the people who are paying all the tax—top 1 percent paying all the tax, and so top 1 percent benefiting from all the loopholes.

Why am I talking about those folks in the top 1 percent? Because I'm not picking on them. I admire them. I just want to make that clear. I admire them. I'm not one of them, but I aspire to be. I hope I come up with that next great idea like Bill Gates, like Steve Jobs. I hope that I do something that makes a difference for America. I hope that I'm one of those folks who owns a business back home that provides jobs for families, jobs for my neighbors, income that supports people's families. I want to be one of those guys. I don't demonize the 1 percent. I admire folks who have gone from nothing but the power of their ideas and the sweat of their brow and created something. Golly, that's what America is to me. That's what it is.

But there are some in this Congress, there are some down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Mr. Speaker, who are intent on demonizing that 1 percent. And what they have now today, this week on the floor of the House, has been a proposal to raise taxes on all of those job creators there in that category. Fully 50 percent of all of the income generated by small businesses is what my colleagues in the Senate, my colleagues here on the Democratic side of the House have proposed to raise taxes on. Those 50 percent of small business owners who are providing all the jobs, that's where my colleagues believe a major tax increase should be levied.

Mr. Speaker, we have put forth a proposal—I'm just so proud—that says, rather than raising taxes on job creators, killing jobs—I showed my choice of two futures—why not introduce fundamental tax reform that eliminates those deductions and loopholes, those carve-outs and exemptions that all of America knows are in the Tax Code, that all of America would like to see eliminated. And if we know that eliminating those has the greatest impact on the highest of our income earners, why do we need a class warfare that's going on down here on the floor of the House?

I say to my colleagues who want to demonize the top 1 percent, join me in eliminating deductions and carve-outs and loopholes and exemptions and you will raise taxes on that community, because those are the folks who benefit because those are the folks who pay the taxes.

There's a better way. Mr. Speaker, that's not just some hardcore freshman Republican who is the sponsor of a fundamental tax reform bill talking.

□ 1820

The President of the United States, this President of the United States, stood not 10 feet behind me at this podium at that microphone right behind

me, and he said these words in January of 2011:

Over the years, a parade of lobbyists has rigged the Tax Code to benefit particular companies and industries. Those with accountants and lawyers to work the system can end up paying no taxes at all, but the rest are hit with one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world.

President Obama said that, and he followed it with this:

It makes no sense, and it has to change.

Hitting job creators in America with the highest tax rate in the world “makes no sense, and it has to change.”

This was January of 2011, 1 month after December, 2010, when the President signed the tax package for 2 years that the House passed today. I ask the Speaker, where is the contention today? This is the same proposal that was passed 2 years ago when the President acknowledged the challenges facing our job creators and said “it has to change.”

We have a bigger plan for fundamental reform that changes the debate in Washington forever, but right now, we are about the business of stopping the largest tax increase in American history from destroying jobs in this country beginning in January of next year. The President acknowledges it and said it had to change.

Right here behind me in January, 2011, he says this:

So tonight, I'm asking Democrats and Republicans to simplify the system, get rid of the loopholes, level the playing field, and use the savings to lower the corporate tax rate for the first time in 25 years without adding to our deficit. It can be done.

It can be done, says President Obama—and he's right. Our Ways and Means Committee has held more hearings on fundamental tax reform than any other Ways and Means Committee in my lifetime. We are talking about those fundamental reforms that the President has asked to talk about. And this week, this week, Mr. Speaker, we passed a framework that gives expedited procedures.

We all know how things get slowed down in Washington, D.C. We all know how easy it is for somebody to latch on to something and stop it from passing because they want to stand in the way of progress. We passed expedited procedures to do exactly what the President has asked us to do. This is not Republican politics. This is not partisan politics. This is folks coming together to try to save what is a fragile economy today. Is it the strongest economy in the world? You'd better believe it. Is tomorrow going to be brighter than today in America? You'd better believe it. But not by holding our tongues, not by sitting on our hands, and not by fighting amongst ourselves about who gets the credit.

Mr. Speaker, I don't care. I've got a fundamental tax reform bill that I believe solves this problem. You can call it anything you want to. Call it the Democratic plan to save America. It

doesn't matter to me. We don't care who gets the credit. We care about solving the problem. And that's what our President charged us to do.

He goes on, January, 2011, 10 feet behind me:

We measure progress by the success of our people, by the jobs they can find and the quality of those jobs, by the prospects of a small businessowner who dreams of turning a good idea into a thriving enterprise.

My colleagues here are trying to raise taxes on 50 percent of all the income those small businessowners make. The job creators in this country are faced with the largest tax increase in American history. Our President has asked us not to do that. He goes on to say this:

By the opportunities for a better life that we pass on to our children, that's the project the American people want us to get to work on together.

And we did. We passed our plan for fundamental tax reform together in a bipartisan way this week.

Talking about the agreement that the President passed and signed in December of 2010, the very same agreement that we're trying to pass today, he said this:

We did that in December. Thanks to the tax cuts we passed, Americans' paychecks are bigger, and these steps taken by Republicans and Democrats will grow the economy and add to more than 1 million private sector jobs this year.

Did you remember my saying the President was going to back up, that this proposal was going to create 1 million private sector jobs? He said it in January, add to more than 1 million private sector jobs created last year.

I'll close with this, Mr. Speaker. That was 10 feet behind me January 20, 2012, the President said this:

We have a huge opportunity at this moment to bring manufacturing back to America, but we have to seize it. We have to seize it.

I bolded this so everybody could see it, Mr. Speaker. We should start with our Tax Code. Right now, companies get tax breaks for moving jobs and profits overseas, meanwhile companies that choose to stay in America get hit with one of the highest tax rates in the world. It makes no sense. Everyone knows it. So let's change it.

Mr. Speaker, that's the bill the House passed this week. The bill the Senate passed this week continues to punish those small businessowners and continues to reward those companies that do their businesses overseas.

Don't let an election year get in the way of doing what's right. The President called for it, the Ways and Means Committee delivered it, the House has passed it, and we can do it. I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to believe as I believe, that tomorrow can be better than today.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 32 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the previous gentleman here. His comments were very compelling to me.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my comments tonight, let me just sincerely say that I hold in my heart this privilege of being a Member of the American family and this United States Congress to be a priceless gift of God. And I would ask that my comments tonight would be heard in that context, and I would even dare to hope, Mr. Speaker, that you and the Members of this body might grant me a modicum of understanding befitting the conviction and the gravity that give impulse to the statements that I make tonight.

Mr. Speaker, the very first responsibility of human government is to protect its people. Many times during the nearly 4 years of the Obama administration, I have stood on this floor and have called upon this administration to address the grave threat posed by Iran's nuclear program.

When I first began calling for Iran to be referred to the Security Council, they possessed only 157 centrifuges, Mr. Speaker. But tonight, Iran possesses more than 9,000. And tonight I stand here with such a sense of urgency that I find it difficult to articulate, Mr. Speaker. I believe we may be facing the very last window this world will ever have before it becomes too late to prevent jihad from becoming armed with nuclear weapons and shattering the peace and security of human freedom as we have known it.

Because this administration has delayed and sent ambiguous messages to Iran and the world, as of approximately 3 months ago, Iran reached the point where it now possesses all the components necessary to become a nuclear-armed nation.

Mr. Speaker, Iran has the knowledge, the technical expertise, the equipment, everything necessary to build a nuclear warhead. They need no new technology, no new personnel, no new parts or resources of any kind from anyone. All they need now is time and lack of intervention.

Mr. Speaker, if Iran is allowed to gain nuclear weapons, it will unequivocally transform the landscape of human freedom as we have known it throughout the world. The world's primary financier of terrorism will be armed with nuclear warheads. A desperate arms race will rage across the entire Middle East. Israel will be in range of nuclear missiles in the hands of a jihadist enemy who despises them, is dedicated to their complete annihilation and capable of obliterating their entire nation in 15 minutes.