

so we can keep this known terrorist out of the United States. I am encouraged by that possibility of cooperation. I hope it comes to fruition. And I hope this week we see the Senate act in a bipartisan way and in a unanimous way to change this law to exclude this known terrorist.

I wish to make a broader point. This nomination is willfully, deliberately insulting and contemptuous. It is not an accident that Ruhani picked a known terrorist who held Americans hostage to send to our country. I would suggest that this action should serve as a wake-up call that the regime in Tehran is directed by the same policies that resulted in the hostage crisis in the first place.

There has been considerable optimism expressed by the Obama administration in the months following the election of President Ruhani that Iran is somehow softening its position toward the West, that Ruhani is somehow a moderate and is acting as a good-faith partner in its negotiations over its nuclear program. This nomination should dispel those illusions. And the professed optimism of this administration flies in the face of reason.

On the eve of the first round of these talks in November, the Revolutionary Guard transferred American pastor Saeed Abedini, unjustly incarcerated simply for professing his Christian faith, from the Evan Prison to the even more brutal Rajai Shahr Prison, carefully selecting the date of that transfer to be the anniversary of the hostage crisis—what they call “Death to America” day in Iran.

After the joint plan of action was agreed to in late November, which one of our closest allies has rightly assessed as a “very, very bad deal”—a historic mistake—President Ruhani triumphantly tweeted—in English, no less—that in the Geneva agreement, “world powers had surrendered to Iran’s will.” These are hardly the words of a friend.

Last February the Iranian Government released a statement declaring that the Nation of Israel is “a cancerous tumor that must be removed.” These are not the words of a rational negotiating partner.

The choice of Mr. Aboutalebi for ambassador to the United Nations once again demonstrates that the same militant hatred of America that has dominated Iran’s foreign policy since the revolution continues to flourish unabated. Indeed, there is a reason Iran refers to Israel as the “Little Satan” and America as the “Great Satan.”

It is astonishing, it is dismaying, it is dangerous that the administration continues to engage in these talks given the clear and consistent message of hostility coming out of Tehran.

The legislation I am introducing will take the first step by establishing that there are no circumstances under which the perpetrators of the hostage crisis—those who have committed overt acts of war against America—will

be welcomed into the United States. This action should be followed by the President suspending the Geneva negotiations unless and until Iran not only ceases this behavior but also ceases all enrichment activities and dismantles their nuclear program in its entirety. Then and only then should there be meaningful dialogue between our two countries.

In 1979 our citizens had to wait more than a year—during which they were tortured by their captors—before they were finally released on January 20, 1981—not coincidentally on the very day on which Ronald Reagan was inaugurated as President.

I am encouraged at the prospect of bipartisan cooperation so that we can stand together as a unanimous Senate against allowing a known terrorist into the United States who has participated in acts of war against our Nation. We should not extend the ordeal of those hostages even further by tolerating this most recent outrage on the part of Iran.

One of the former hostages, Barry Rosen, called the possibility that the United States might grant the visa application a “disgrace,” and he said, “It may be [setting] a precedent but if the President and Congress don’t condemn this act by the Islamic Republic, then our captivity and suffering at the hands of Iran was for nothing.”

I believe it is well worth setting a precedent to show the world that whatever smiling mask is on the other side of the table in Geneva, the true face of Tehran remains the terrorist who took our people hostage 35 years ago, whom they are now attempting to send to America under the auspices of being an ambassador. Instead, I believe we should stand together in saying that a known terrorist who has carried out acts of war against America will, in Mr. Rosen’s words, “never set foot on American soil.” I hope we can stand together behind this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL AS “PARKINSON’S AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. JOHANNES, and Ms. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 408

Whereas Parkinson’s disease is a chronic, progressive, and neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson’s disease, but the disease affects an estimated 500,000 to 1,500,000 individuals in the United States and the prevalence of such disease is estimated to more than double by 2040;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson’s disease is the 14th leading cause of death in

the United States and the age-adjusted death rate for individuals with Parkinson’s disease increased 2.9 percent from 2010 to 2011;

Whereas every day, Parkinson’s disease greatly impacts millions of individuals in the United States who are caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals with Parkinson’s disease;

Whereas the economic burden of Parkinson’s disease is an estimated \$14,400,000,000 each year, including indirect costs to patients and family members of \$6,300,000,000 each year;

Whereas although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson’s disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and the exact progression of the disease remain unknown;

Whereas an objective test or biomarker for diagnosing Parkinson’s disease does not exist, and the rate of misdiagnosis for the disease is high;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease vary from person to person and include tremors, slowness of movement, rigidity, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking, cognitive impairment, dementia, mood disorders (such as depression and anxiety), constipation, skin complications, and sleep difficulties;

Whereas a cure, therapy, or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson’s disease does not exist;

Whereas medications mask some symptoms of Parkinson’s disease for a limited amount of time each day, often with dose-limiting side effects, and such medications ultimately lose effectiveness, leaving the patient unable to move, speak, or swallow; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for Parkinson’s disease with fewer side effects and ultimately finding a cure for the disease require increased education and research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April as “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”;

(3) continues to support research to develop more effective treatments for Parkinson’s disease and to ultimately find a cure for the disease; and

(4) commends the dedication of State, local, regional, and national organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in the United States working to improve the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson’s disease and the families of such individuals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2885. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2886. Mr. SCOTT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2887. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2874 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK)) to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.