

anyway. But the American people are learning important lessons about the President's enablers at the three most important branches of the Republican Party: at the White House, in the Congress, and at FOX News.

We know the President doesn't lose sleep wrestling with the moral implications of his behavior, but all of us had higher hopes for the professionals around the President—expectations which were apparently too high, indeed.

One thing is sure: this country owes a great debt to Senator JOHN MCCAIN, and our thoughts and prayers are with him, even if the President's thoughts are somewhere else.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

IRAN HOSTAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week all Americans were relieved when three of our own citizens were released and returned home from North Korea. We are happy for them, for their families, and we rejoice in their reunification.

However, Mr. Speaker, this success only serves as a reminder that we have American citizens and legal permanent residents being unjustly detained elsewhere around the world, particularly in Iran. We know that the Iranian regime has played this game of detaining citizens from the U.S. and Western nations in an effort to get political and financial concessions from us. They hold these folks hostages, use them as bargaining chips, destroying lives and families in the process.

Last year, my south Florida colleague and ranking member on our subcommittee, the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, TED DEUTCH, and I held a hearing titled: "Held for Ransom: The Families of Iran's Hostages Speak Out." We heard from Doug Levinson, the son of Bob Levinson, who has been missing in Iran since 2007—11 years. Bob is the longest held civilian hostage in America's history. He is also a constituent of TED's, and I know that Congressman DEUTCH has worked tirelessly each over the years to do whatever he can to bring Bob home and to reunite him with his family.

We also heard from other individuals—Babak Namazi, whose father and brother have been unjustly detained by the Iranian regime. I have met with Babak many times, and my heart just breaks each one of those times, especially when we hear of Americans being freed from North Korea while Baquer and Siamak, his father and brother, linger in Iran's prison.

And our subcommittee also heard from Omar Zakka, son of Nizar Zakka, a U.S. legal permanent resident and

hostage of the Iranian regime. Nizar has gone on hunger strikes about a dozen times since first being detained in 2015.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Iranian regime used the news of the freed Americans from North Korea as a means to torture their hostages. The mental, physical, and psychological abuse that these individuals must be undergoing is beyond comprehension.

The White House has said that this is a priority: to release all unjustly detained persons in Iran—not just American citizens and U.S. legal permanent residents, but all foreigners who are unjustly detained.

President Trump spoke about how this would not happen if he were President, so it is time for President Trump to make that a reality. He can start by urging our European friends, some of whom have citizens detained in Iran as well, to make this more of a priority for them as well and to condition any further talk on the release of all prisoners. We have to increase the pressure using all levers that we have, and we have to bring these brave individuals home.

I was pleased to see President Trump announce his intent to appoint a special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs earlier this week. This is a positive first step, Mr. Speaker. It signals an intent to make a more concerted effort to bring these Americans home.

For the sake of Nizar and his family, for the sake of Baquer and Siamak and their families, for the sake of Bob Levinson and his family, and for the sake of Princeton graduate student Xiyue Wang and his family, and for all the Americans and other foreigners being held in Iran, we need to make this a priority. We need to secure their immediate release.

SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the situation we are currently facing regarding the House version of the farm bill.

The House farm bill, traditionally, for over 40 years, is one of the most bipartisan things that we do here in Congress, Democrats working with Republicans throughout the various regions of America. This is the third farm bill that I have had the opportunity to participate in, working together.

So where are we today? We are exactly where we should not be. We are facing a vote this week on a partisan farm bill that is both, in my view, bad policy and divides us even further as a country. This bill does not promote or demonstrate the successful programs, I think, necessary to strengthen our trade in the agricultural sectors across the country.

America trades throughout the world, and our agricultural economy is

dependent, in large degree, on our ability to produce more food than we can consume; and, therefore, trade becomes very important.

American agriculture needs a farm bill that supports and promotes not only trade, but, now perhaps more than ever with looming escalation of a trade war sparked by the administration's efforts with steel and aluminum, we see tariffs taking place on a host of products grown in the Midwest—sorghum, corn, and wheat—and in California potential increases in beef and pistachios and almonds. So that doesn't fare well.

This version of the farm bill also does not adequately support the dairy safety net. Of course, our dairy economy is big throughout the Midwest and in California, actually, the largest dairy State in the Nation. Nor does it do enough for our specialty crop farmers who grow the fresh fruits and vegetables that are a part of a healthy diet. California grows half of the Nation's fruits and vegetables.

This bill also proposes to make changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, otherwise known as SNAP, which will likely devastate parts of the food program that are working well. This, after all, is America's safety net, and we have a lot of not only children and elderly, but people who are disabled who depend and rely on these important food nutrition programs.

We do all believe that able-bodied people should be working, and all of us have the same goal in ensuring that those able-bodied people are self-sufficient. If we want people to become self-reliant, let's give them a SNAP program that does just that.

We have 10 pilot projects in 10 different States that are working, and they are to report back next year on what best works to get able-bodied people working and what doesn't work. But this proposal in this House version is doomed to failure, and the House CBO has scored it accordingly. Instead, it will likely cause our SNAP education to create training programs that will collapse, costing billions of dollars, creating a new Federal bureaucracy that was never given a chance to succeed.

We should not be in this position, Mr. Speaker.

Where should we be? We should be working together, as we have with previous farm bills, Democrats and Republicans, deliberate, negotiating, and, yes, even disagreeing over ideas and approaches, but coming together with important compromises.

The farm bill is America's food bill. It is also a national security item. People don't think about it that way, but the ability to produce all for America's dinner table every night the most healthy, nutritious food in the world is a national security issue, I believe.

Therefore, we must support our food security and safety for our fellow Americans. Our Nation's food policy must feed Americans and ensure our

farmers, our ranchers, and our dairy producers can all be successful.

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It should not serve some and abandon others, and it should not further divide us as a country.

As I have said, this is the third farm bill that I have had the privilege to work on. We have worked through these differences in the past, and we have worked through the challenges. It is my hope that Congress can do this again. But it will not happen if we allow the partisan arm-twisting to ram this bad policy through the House.

A vote against the House version of the farm bill is a vote for something better, which is the Senate version, where they are working together, traditionally, in a bipartisan fashion—that is what we should be doing—and not engaging in these partisan games that create bad policy.

Therefore, a vote against the current bill on the House version is one that is a good vote, and it is one that protects our past farm policies as they have worked. A “no” vote is a vote for more support for our farmers and for our families. It is demanding that Congress do better because we can, and we must, do better.

The Senate version is currently the version that I think, ultimately, is going to succeed. I look forward to continue working with our colleagues on the other side—Republicans and Democrats—who are fostering a bipartisan bill—Senator ROBERTS and Senator STABENOW.

I look forward to moving past this version of the farm bill so that we can set aside this outrageous effort in partisan politics and get back to work on America’s food bill, a national security issue, to be sure.

UNDIAGNOSED GYNECOLOGICAL CANCERS IN AMERICAN WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about our team’s work on behalf of women in my district and across the Nation.

Last month, data from Yale University gynecologists demonstrated that between 2 percent and 10 percent of American women undergoing gynecological operations end up having missed cancers. It is shocking to think that these cancers are found only after women undergo these surgeries. These missed cancers are at high risk of being spread by the very surgeries these women are undergoing to help them.

My physician constituents, like the Reed family, tell me that this represents an unacceptable and seismic epidemic of undiagnosed gynecological cancers that are prone to spread and upstaging with catastrophic results.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have asked the CDC to immediately consider guid-

ing gynecologists towards the use of more precise preoperative tissue biopsy methods in order to identify the women at risk. I am now awaiting a response from CDC leadership with a plan of action aimed at containing what is likely to be a shocking epidemic of undiagnosed gynecological cancers in American women.

Mr. Speaker, we must stay focused on this situation in order to protect all women from this grave health risk.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Police Week, and I am proud to recognize a member of the law enforcement community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, whose quick thinking delivered justice to a survivor of abuse.

Officer Michael Marks of the Middletown Township Police Department promptly and professionally investigated an allegation of abuse of a non-verbal patient who had suffered blunt force trauma. His diligence led to a grand jury inquiry, which ultimately brought charges against a caretaker, who was later found guilty. Because of the work of Officer Marks, this individual will no longer be able to prey on the defenseless members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally thank Officer Marks for his work in defending our community and send a message to all of my neighbors in Middletown Township that they are undoubtedly safer for having him on our police force.

RECOGNIZING MAKEFIELD WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, women all over our country collectively raised their voices and are continuing to change our culture for the better.

Today, I would like to recognize a group of women in our district actively working to make Bucks County, Pennsylvania, a better place. The Makefield Women’s Association in Yardley last month donated over \$27,000 to local charities, including: A Woman’s Place, the Family Service Association Emergency Homeless Shelter, the Pennel Community Food Pantry, Wrapping Presence, and the Yardley-Makefield Volunteer Fire Company.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the Makefield Women’s Association, which greatly improves the quality of life for our community. I would especially like to thank the organization’s president, Jennifer Ketler, for her leadership and for her service.

FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed listening to my colleague from California talk about his deep concerns and reservations about the farm bill that is slowly grinding its way, per-

haps, toward the floor being considered today by the Rules Committee.

While we have somewhat different perspectives and different districts, we are united in the fact that this farm bill does not remotely reflect the needs of the American public. One of the problems is that we fail to address the disparate array of subsidies under the farm bill, benefiting a few States, a few districts, a few types of farming operations, and ignoring the rest.

The famous nutrition professor, Marion Nestle, of NYU has written a great essay, “The Farm Bill Drove Me Insane,” dealing with her attempts to try to understand and rationalize it.

One of the most memorable portions is how she describes what an American diet would look like if it was based on the way that our farm bill subsidies are arrayed. The diet would consist of a giant corn fritter because 78 percent of the farm bill resources goes to the production of industrial corn and soy, not fruits and vegetables, which would be a tiny microscopic part of that plate. There would be a little hamburger patty because that is less than 5 percent, and there would be a little cup of milk. And she points out that that meal, based on the farm bill allocation, would be accompanied by a giant napkin because 13 percent of the farm bill is allocated to cotton subsidies.

The farm bill shortchanges the vast majority of American farmers and ranchers, who are not heavily subsidized, who produce food—the fruits, vegetables, and orchard, products that deal with nurseries. The majority of States and the majority of farmers and ranchers are shut out.

There is an area of crop insurance subsidy. I will tell you, I was stunned when I read the Statement of Administration Policy because they are concerned with two areas, one dealing with a necessary subsidy for people with nutrition assistance. They are afraid that a few poor people would have access to lower cost food through the Food Stamp program. They want to crank that down, limit it, and force people to work.

Well, if you look at the farm bill that they are supporting, they are doing nothing to encourage wealthy farming interests to rely less on subsidization. They are concerned about expanding the subsidizes for people under the SNAP program.

At the same time, we are given a farm bill that explodes the limits on the amount of subsidy that can flow to wealthy farming and ranching interests, and it expands the subsidy so that nieces and nephews and cousins are eligible. People who aren’t working on the ranch are somehow eligible for Federal largesse, but they would deny hungry people, or near hungry people, low-income people, that same sort of benefit.

There are also concerns that they want to crank down on the environmental programs; they want to make them more productive. Yet this farm