

As the Biden administration has proven time and time again, executive orders are out of control, and they are no way to govern in a democracy. That is why I introduced the More Accountability is Necessary Now Act, which requires the President to notify Congress and the public before issuing any new executive orders pertaining to agriculture, energy, natural resources, the right to life, the Second Amendment, and immigration. This is a common-sense way to hold the government accountable and stop some of the Big Government overreach that Kansans and the Big First are sick and tired of.

I don't serve in Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I am here to do my part in making America stronger. We need to rebuild our country on behalf of Americans who have had their rights stripped from them, their taxpayer dollars wasted, their values shoved back in their face, and their country's economy brought to the brink of disaster by an administration that isn't getting the message.

We need everything from a balanced budget to a strengthened supply chain, from lower taxes to a secure southern border, and from a strong farm bill to robust police and military forces.

We have a lot of work to do, and if we open our eyes to the real problems that Americans are facing today and look at the commonsense solutions on the table, we can accomplish real meaningful change in our country.

With prayer and hard work, I believe America's brightest days are yet to come.

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON VENEZUELA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing political, human rights, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and its hemispheric consequences, including the arrival of 187,000 desperate Venezuelans at our southern border last year.

This crisis has many causes, beginning with misguided and distorting economic policies implemented by successive Venezuelan Governments. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the maximum pressure secondary and sectoral sanctions policy put in place by former President Trump and continued by President Biden has deepened the economic pain and hardship suffered by the Venezuelan people. The goal of that policy was to remove Nicolas Maduro from power in Venezuela. It has not worked. Rather, as The New York Times editorial board wrote on July 22, that Maduro "instead consolidated his grip on Venezuela, blamed its economic misery on American sanctions and drew his country closer to Russia and China."

Throughout my time in Congress, I have strongly defended the idea that

human rights should be at the center of U.S. foreign policy, and I have led many bills to redress human rights abuses, including the Global Magnitsky targeted sanctions legislation. Nevertheless, I don't support the use of sanctions to punish entire peoples for the actions of their leaders or to bludgeon an adversary into submission.

This is why I have said that the Trump-era sanctions should already have been lifted by the Biden administration, and I continue to believe that. However, unfortunately, that has not happened, and it seems unlikely that it will in the near future.

In the end, human rights advocacy is meant to improve and restore the lives of victims of abuses and to change conditions so that abuses will not recur. As a human rights advocate, I have a moral responsibility to do whatever I can to advance these goals.

That is why I welcomed the administration's support for the resumption of negotiations between the Maduro government and Venezuelan opposition in Mexico last year. It is why I believe the social fund for the basic needs of the Venezuelan people, whose creation was agreed to during those negotiations, should be stood up as soon as possible. Additionally, it is why I was encouraged to see the statement of principles that came out of the International Conference on Venezuela convened by the Colombian government last April.

The statement laid out three steps—the establishment of a chronogram for elections, the easing of sanctions in parallel as agreements are reached between the parties, and the continuation of the negotiations accompanied by accelerated implementation of the social fund—that, taken together, offer a real opportunity to begin to resolve Venezuela's crisis.

These steps would empower and benefit all Venezuelans seeking to rebuild their country and their future.

Everyone who is concerned about the human rights of the Venezuelan people should take advantage of this opportunity. I still believe the Trump-era sanctions should be lifted, and I will continue to urge the Biden administration to do so.

Democracy and civil rights will not be advanced by maintaining punishing economic sanctions. All that does is continue to hurt innocent people. Nonetheless, we need to find a way to move the ball forward, and I believe there is an opportunity now. Time is short, and there is a lot of uncertainty, but there is also some hope, and that should guide us.

CONGRATULATING BRIAN HARMAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Savannah, Georgia, native, a Pooler Packer alum, a Savannah Christian School graduate, a UGA Bulldog, a cur-

rent First District constituent, and an extraordinary golfer on his first major championship win at the 151st British Open Golf Championship in England, Brian Harman.

This win is an incredible honor for the entire First District and was a long time coming for Brian, decades in the making.

Mr. Speaker, you see my sons in this picture. They played youth basketball with Brian, and, in fact, my talented wife, Amy, was the coach of that team. We are so very proud of Brian.

I remember seeing firsthand the talent that Brian possessed, and it wasn't any surprise when Brian went on to play competitively for the University of Georgia's golf team or to finish runner-up at the 2017 US Open.

This past week, after four rounds of golf, Brian's final score at the 2023 Open was 271, 13 strokes under par and six strokes ahead of all other golfers in the tournament.

Brian's win was decisive and hard-earned, and I, on behalf of the entire Savannah community and the First District of Georgia, congratulate him immensely for his victory.

Brian has made Savannah, the First District of Georgia, the State of Georgia, the Pooler Packers, the Savannah Christian School, and the Bulldog Nation proud this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing more great work and many more championships from Brian in the future.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN SOUL BARBECUE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the local St. Simons barbecue restaurant, Southern Soul Barbecue, for being named the Best Barbecue Restaurant in Georgia.

This year, Yelp searched around the entire country to find the best barbecue restaurants in the Nation, and Southern Soul was an easy selection.

After serving charities in 2007, Griffin Buffin and Harrison Sapp launched their barbecue business in a subleased kitchen before moving into an antique converted gas station.

They caught their big break in 2010 when Southern Soul was featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives."

The St. Simon's community continued to support their favorite barbecue business even after a horrible fire erupted in the establishment in 2010.

Southern Soul didn't let this tragic fire stop them, and in the year 2023, they are still winning awards and serving the best barbecue in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Southern Soul on their sustained success, and I thank them for all they do for our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. RALPH DIXON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Ralph Dixon, a loving husband, a humble veteran, and a proud grandparent.

Ralph was born in Blackshear, Georgia, in the First Congressional District