

at the United Nations where he is expected to formally announce a resolution to unilaterally seek the declaration of a Palestinian state.

While we are ultimately committed to a future where the two states, Israel and Palestine, are able to live side by side in long-term peace and security, while all of us in this Chamber heard directly from Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu in May on his nation's commitment to a two-state solution, the question I have and which I wish every nation in the world who will be voting on this issue should ask itself is: Are the Palestinians ready to make peace?

This is the key question and is what Prime Minister Netanyahu laid out in his remarks right here in this Chamber: "The conflict has never been about the establishment of a Palestinian state. It has always been about the existence of the Jewish state. That is what this conflict is about."

Madam Speaker, this unilateral declaration of independence is a direct challenge to the United States and the efforts and the dollars we have committed in recent years to promote a real, lasting peace. It is fundamental that peace cannot be imposed from the outside. It can only be made in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

There are too many difficult core issues which can only adequately be addressed through direct negotiations, which must be mutually accepted by governments on both sides, and, most importantly, which must be ratified by the people who live there. Without these vital elements, you don't have peace. You don't even increase the chances for peace down the road. Rather, you undermine the prospects for achieving it in the future.

This is the point of this unilateral declaration. Where is the commitment to peace on the Palestinian side?

Palestinian officials have made it clear that this unilateral effort is another means of isolating Israel and escalating the conflict against her. Palestinian officials have made it clear that they seek to advance this bid so that they can attack Israel through the international legal system, including taking actions against Israel in the International Court of Justice.

The tragic reality, Madam Speaker, is that Israel lives in a very dangerous region of the world, and the Israeli people absolutely have grave security concerns that should not simply be tossed aside by countries that are allies of the United States of America. The Israeli people are surrounded by hostile neighbors that want to drive Israel out of existence. We here in America must understand the reality on the ground and the threats Israel faces each and every day.

Israel is a peace-seeking democracy, and the Israeli people simply want to live in peace and security. Iran has its proxies closing in: Hamas in Gaza; to the south there's the Muslim Brotherhood, now gaining significant power in Egypt; Hezbollah is in the north; and in the northeast is Syria, led by Assad.

The recent downgrade in relations by Turkey is very serious. The instability of the Sinai is of enormous concern. This is a dangerous neighborhood, and recent events are bringing into sharp view Israel's daily reality—increased isolation and living under siege.

As we witnessed with the flotilla last year, with the storming of Israel's Embassy in Cairo 2 weeks ago, or with Turkey's new aggressive, bellicose rhetoric and actions, Turkey, who until very recently had enjoyed a successful diplomatic and economic partnership with the State of Israel, events in the Middle East can easily spiral out of control and lead to outcomes that nobody desires.

Fortunately, the Members of this Chamber have made it clear to the entire world that we will not sit idly by during the continued delegitimization of the State of Israel and the international community. I applaud the efforts of my colleagues in both parties who have continued to beat the drum and call this unilateral attempt exactly what it is—an effort to circumvent direct negotiations and undermine peace.

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I am pleased that the President is committed to vetoing this unilateral attempt in the Security Council if it does come to a vote, and I appreciate his administration's focus on this particular critical issue.

We must continue in our efforts to urge the nations of the world to stand with the United States, support peace efforts in the Middle East, and oppose this resolution.

Peace between Israel and her Palestinian neighbors cannot be achieved unless both sides sit and find common ground. Unilateral declarations and third parties cannot do it for them. The only path forward is for the Israelis and the Palestinians to sit together and find peace. It is time for Mr. Abbas to come back to the table—his actions and decisions here must not be rewarded; our allies in the world should recognize this—otherwise they are legitimizing and ratifying the Palestinian refusals to negotiate.

OPPOSING AUTOMATED KILLER DRONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, there was an article in The Washington Post earlier this week that we should all find very unsettling and disturbing.

We know that in recent years the Pentagon has increasingly used unmanned drone aircraft to carry out violent acts of war. And frankly, that's bad enough. But now there's a new and even more frightening technology in the works. It's called "lethal autonomy." And under the system, the drones would no longer be remotely op-

erated and controlled by actual human beings. The lethal autonomy drones would be computer programmed to carry out their deadly mission independently. No human hand providing steering and guidance.

I can't even begin to wrap my head around the humanitarian red flags associated with this experiment in robotics.

Software can break down. It could even be hacked. Furthermore, computers don't have a conscience. They aren't nimble, they can't make snap decisions based on new information or ethical considerations. They're programmed to do what they do without judgment, discretion, or scruples. You can just imagine, or I can anyway, mass civilian atrocities thanks to a robot drone raging out of control.

Thankfully, a group called the International Committee for Robot Arms Control is speaking up and making these points. Pointing out that if we have a treaty banning land mines, why not one that outlaws these automatic killer drones.

According to the Post, the military has begun to grapple with the implications of this technology. Well, I can really suggest that they continue grappling before using these technologies and finding the flaws and possible harmful and unpredictable consequences.

One advocate of these new drones believes it's possible to program them to comply with international law regarding the conduct of hostilities. Well, I'm certainly skeptical. We couldn't even get the last President of the United States to understand and abide by the Geneva Conventions. I don't know how we're going to get a robot to do it.

Madam Speaker, the increasing dehumanization of warfare is part of a terrifying trend. Somehow it's easier to kill one another when we have computers and machines to carry it out for us, when we don't have to stare our own mayhem in the face.

As a member of the Science Committee, I'm totally enthusiastic about American high-tech innovation. But I believe we should be using our knowledge and ingenuity to give the civilian economy the boost it needs to create good jobs for hardworking middle class Americans and to create a smarter response to world conflict. All of this money we're funneling to defense contractors to devise evermore sophisticated ways to kill one another must be reinvested in alternatives to warfare and nonviolent ways to resolving conflict.

That's what my Smart Security plan does. I've discussed this many, many times from this very spot. It's called Smart Security. It defines military force as the very, very last resort. And it directs energy and resources toward diplomacy, democracy promotion, development, and peaceful ways of engaging with the rest of the world.

Madam Speaker, in two weeks' time we will have been at war for a full decade. More than 6,000 Americans have

died, 10,000 innocent Afghans and Iraqis have been killed for the cause of their so-called liberation. Many, many more of our own troops have been harmed and will always be living with the results of their injuries.

The time is now. The time is to stop building machines that can kill more efficiently and start bringing our troops home.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S AMERICAN JOBS ACT

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Madam Speaker, we continue to suffer from an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, and America saw zero job growth in the month of August. Our Nation has a jobs crisis. So why is the Obama administration making it so difficult to create jobs?

Not only do we have a jobs crisis, but we also have a debt crisis. These two things are interconnected, and we certainly should not make one worse while making the other better.

The President has outlined his \$447 billion jobs plan, and it's essentially stimulus number two. It's the same recycled ideas that clearly didn't work from the last \$800 billion stimulus. At the same time, the President wants to pay for his plan with \$1.5 trillion in new taxes.

It's estimated that small business owners would pay over half the taxes raised under this proposal, ultimately hitting our employers the hardest and creating an even worse environment for private sector job growth.

Tax increases destroy jobs. They're not an option.

Now, there are some issues we agree on. For example, infrastructure funding. That's an appropriate function of government. It's something we could do to boost a sagging economy. But the problem is mistrust. With the President's first stimulus, little went to actual infrastructure development.

Now, we agree that we must move forward on the three free trade agreements. By passing those agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea we'll increase competitiveness of American manufacturers and have an increase of 250,000 American jobs.

While we can find common ground on a few things, the President continues to show reluctance on impacting entitlement program solvency. His proposal seeks to strengthen the independent advisory board which was created by ObamaCare. This board of unelected bureaucrats was given way too much authority in the first place to determine what benefits are covered and how much physicians are paid.

The best way to control costs in Medicare is to increase choice and competition, not by empowering a group of unelected bureaucrats.

The Obama administration has created a triple threat of out-of-control

spending, excessive regulations, and higher taxes. And these three things have resulted in an environment that has destroyed the confidence and prevented job creators from hiring.

Washington must create an environment favorable to job creation and focus on removing this triple threat. First, we must continue to fight to rein in Washington's unrestrained spending.

This fall, the Congress will deal with a balanced budget agreement which would finally force Washington to live within its means and do what families, businesses, and local and State governments are already required to do, and that is balance their budgets.

We must focus on regulatory relief. Just recently the House passed a bill that would prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from dictating where an employer can and cannot locate jobs in the United States. Employers need to be allowed to invest in the State that offers the best economic climate for job creation.

This week we're going to vote on the TRAIN Act.

The Obama EPA has imposed unnecessary and burdensome regulations on businesses, and we want to determine how those regulations affect electricity prices, fuel prices, and unemployment.

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The TRAIN Act will help uncover exactly how much the EPA is costing Mississippi consumers, farmers, small businesses, and State and local governments. These are just a few examples of the frustrating regulations that have come out of the Obama administration.

Lastly, we must concentrate on tax reform. The Joint Select Committee has the opportunity to lay the foundation for fundamental tax reform, but they must not enact tax increases. The American people don't need or want more solutions from the Federal Government. They want the Federal Government to get out of their way.

By tackling our spending problem, by removing excess regulations and by guaranteeing that taxes will not increase, we will unleash the American economy and give businesses the confidence they need to grow and create jobs.

POVERTY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. As founder of the congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, I rise today to continue sounding the alarm about the tide of poverty sweeping across this country.

Last week, the United States Census Bureau released its annual report, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010. It revealed a disturbing but unsurprising spike in the poverty rate—from 14.3 percent in 2009 to a staggering 15.1 percent in 2010.

In 2010, 46 million people lived in poverty in America. That is essentially

the populations of California and Michigan combined who are living in poverty in America. It's really a moral outrage that in the richest country in the world so many Americans are facing or are living in poverty, lacking economic opportunity and economic security.

Shamefully, our children bear the greatest burden. In 2010, 22 percent, or one in five children, lived in poverty. That's in America. Poverty continues to hit communities of color much harder, as the facts show. In 2010, the poverty rate for whites rose to 9.9 percent. The poverty rate for African Americans rose to 27.4 percent. The poverty rate for Latinos rose to 26.6 percent. For Asian Pacific Americans, the 2010 poverty rate of 12.1 percent remained the same.

This massive poverty crisis we are facing didn't happen overnight. Poverty rates began to rise during the Bush administration as 8 years of failed economic policy wiped out all of the gains made during the Clinton years. The co-chairs of the Out of Poverty Caucus saw this day coming, and while little attention has been placed on the poor, we are determined to prick the conscience of this Congress and to act to stem the tide of poverty across America.

The members of the congressional Out of Poverty Caucus sent a letter asking the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, more commonly known as the supercommittee, to stay in line with prior deficit reduction agreements of the past by not cutting programs that provide basic human services—the safety net. Of course, now more and more Americans need this safety net. We must not balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable. Unfortunately, now middle-income people are falling into the ranks of the poor. As many of us know, millions of people are just one paycheck away from poverty.

We really can turn the tide on poverty. The solution to boosting this stagnating economy, reducing our long-term deficits, and lifting Americans out of the crisis of poverty is really the same. We must invest in creating more stable, living wage jobs. In fact, the most effective anti-poverty program is an effective jobs program. That is why Congress must immediately pass the President's American Jobs Act to begin the work of creating jobs, reducing poverty, and jump-starting our economy.

Poverty rates have increased in rural and urban communities throughout the country. The American Dream has turned into a nightmare for millions. This is a crisis, but we must turn the tide, and we must start today. So I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop playing politics and to act on jobs now. We can and we must act urgently to turn the tide of poverty sweeping across the Nation—a tide, really, that knows no party affiliation.