

Act. The MOPS for the 21st Century Act expands Federal research on maternity practices and ensures the healthiest of maternity outcomes, and it authorizes a scientifically based media campaign to educate the public about those practices. In addition, the bill creates a national focus on maternity care by establishing an inter-agency coordinating committee to promote optimal outcomes for mothers and babies.

To help address serious health disparities in maternity care outcome, the MOPS for the 21st Century Act directs the collection of data to determine the areas in our country which lack adequate access to maternity care providers. It also directs the Secretary of HHS to support the education of a more culturally and geographically diverse interdisciplinary workforce by convening a maternity curriculum commission to develop core curricula across maternity professional disciplines, establishing loan repayment programs for providers in maternity care shortage areas and by authorizing grant programs for maternity professional organizations to recruit and retain minority providers.

Mr. Speaker, as Lee Jong-wook, former Deputy General of the World Health Organization once said, “Mothers, the newborn, and children represent the well-being of a society and its potential for the future. Their health needs cannot be left unmet without harming the whole of society.”

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt the future of our country depends on the health and well-being of our mothers and their children. I urge my colleagues to make evidence-based maternity care a national priority by cosponsoring and helping to pass the MOPS for the 21st Century Act.

BAND PLAYS ON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the band continues to play the same song, third or fourth verse, and that is the song of nuclear weapons in Iran.

Now, is there anyone in the House of Representatives, Democratic, Republican, who believes that Iran has stopped its development of nuclear weapons? I think not. Is there anyone in this world who thinks that Iran has stopped its development of nuclear weapons? I think not.

You know, they used the philosophy and the politics of delay, of promise, of hope to tell the world that really they are not really interested in nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, the band continues to play the song of nuclear weapons coming from the desert and the tiny tyrant of the desert, Ahmadinejad.

He is bent on the destruction of, first, Israel and then the West, and he is primarily concerned right now with

destroying opposition in his own country. After all, he is an illegitimate officeholder and President of Iran. He rigged the elections, and so he took control. He killed his own people in the streets, and, Mr. Speaker, he is still at war with the Iranian people, those good folks in Iran who want to control their destiny and don't want it controlled by their dictator, the little tyrant in the desert.

We as a Nation and as a world need to support the people of Iran to change their regime. Our quarrel is not with the people of Iran. Our quarrel is with the tiny tyrant in the desert who wants the nuclear destruction of Israel and the West.

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And he has continued his attack on his own people in Camp Ashraf. Those Iranian folks that are in Camp Ashraf in Iraq that we as a Nation have promised to protect but because of our agreement with the Iraqi Government, Camp Grizzly, that organization or that camp we have in Iraq to protect the Iranians in Camp Ashraf, we have abandoned that Camp Grizzly. The United Nations assistance team has also left.

So who is in charge of protecting the Iranians in Iraq? Certainly not the Iranian Government. They want them destroyed. After all, it was about a year ago when they encouraged the Iraqi Government to go into Camp Ashraf and they did. They killed 11 Iranians; 500 others were wounded. And now we hear media talk that the Iranian Government is working with the Iraqi Government to present warrants of arrest so the Iraqi Government will go back into Camp Ashraf and arrest those pro-democracy Iranians that want to remove Ahmadinejad. We cannot allow that to happen. We must protect the people, the citizens of Camp Ashraf. It is our obligation, our moral duty as a Nation and as a world to make sure those dissidents remain protected and free.

It is important to the world that we as a Nation understand the importance of Israel as our ally. Israel is surrounded by its enemies: it's surrounded by Hamas to the south, Hezbollah to the north. And you know what, Mr. Speaker? Iran is supplying weapons and money to Hezbollah in the north, Hamas in the south. You see, the little rogue dictator, the tiny tyrant of the desert, Ahmadinejad, is trying to have insurrection in Israel as well as in his own country.

So, Mr. Speaker, the great hope for Iran, the great hope for the world is a regime change in Iran. And we need to be vigilant and supportive and watchful and make sure that we help in any way we can, at least verbally and politically, to support the good people of Iran to take control of their own country, to get rid of this illegitimate dictator that's trying to destroy not only Israel and the West, but his own country for some unfortunate reason.

Mr. Speaker, regime change is the answer. A nuclear Iran is not a nuclear option.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BRIGHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have a poster beside me of a handsome couple. It's Marine Sergeant Tom Bagosy and his wife, Katie. I would like to read from an article:

“Marine Sgt. Tom Bagosy stepped out of his black GMC Sierra pickup and onto the gray speckled pavement of McHugh Boulevard, a busy thoroughfare in the heart of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He held a pistol in his right hand. The military police car that had pulled him over idled on the shoulder a safe distance behind him. The midday traffic stopped. Bagosy stood for a moment on the warm pavement under a cloudless May sky. Then he raised the pistol, pointed it to the right side of his throat just below his jaw, and pulled the trigger. The bullet sliced through his jugular vein, traveled through his skull, and exited near the top left side of his head. He crumpled down in the road. Even if the bullet had failed to rip through his brain, shooting through the jugular was solid insurance. He would have bled out in minutes anyway.

“Bagosy, 25, who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan, had become another statistic in the war-fatigued military and its steadily escalating suicide rate. Last year, 52 marines committed suicide.”

Mr. Speaker, I bring this to the floor because I don't know what we're trying to accomplish in Afghanistan. The experts say they can identify about 50 al Qaeda. Yes, we know al Qaeda is in other parts of Afghanistan, of the 50, then Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, and other countries. And yet Tom Bagosy is like so many in our military who are willing to go time after time, time after time. But they also are human beings that break down as well as get tired. And the families—Katie is now the mother to two children without her husband, Tom.

Mr. Speaker, the tragedy of war goes on and on and on, and yet we have no endpoint in Afghanistan. We just keep sending the troops back and back and back and back. Just recently we had a debate on the floor of the House and we tried to debate what is the endpoint to the strategy. I'm not a military man, Mr. Speaker, but I've talked to many,

all ranks, and I've been told if you don't have an endpoint to a strategy, you have no strategy.

I hope Mr. Obama will keep his word and start in June of 2011 to downsize the military in Afghanistan because, Mr. Speaker, it breaks my heart to stand on the floor and to show a beautiful young couple, and yet the husband was worn out and tired. In fact, the title of the article says, "A predictable suicide at Camp Lejeune: A doctor warned that mental health care for violent, disturbed marines was inadequate. Sgt. Tom Bagosy proved it."

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing Camp Lejeune and Cherry Point and Seymour Johnson Air Force base, and what I would like to continue to say before I close is we thank you in the military and your families. You have done a magnificent job for this country. But those of us who make policy, Mr. Speaker, we need to understand and develop and demand an endpoint to the strategy because it's not fair and it's not right to wear out our military and its equipment.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I do and have many times, I will close this way: I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for this country, including our military. And I will ask God to please bless the President of the United States, Mr. Obama; give him wisdom and strength to do what is right in the eyes of God for his people. And three times I will ask, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BP'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITIES CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week, as we know, BP announced that it had capped the oil well, and that for the first time in more than 80 days oil had stopped gushing into the

Gulf of Mexico. While last week's announcement was cause for relief among many, I have since urged cautious optimism. Much work remains to be done to address the worst environmental disaster that this country has seen in recent memory.

BP is still responsible for ensuring that every last drop of oil is removed from the gulf. BP still has a financial responsibility to those residents in the gulf coast, particularly in my congressional district of the Florida Keys, who remain financially devastated from the public perception, however false it may be, of tar ball-covered beaches and oil-soaked fish.

Despite promises of improvement, however, the BP claims process has not improved. I support legislation introduced by my friend, Congressman CHARLIE MELANCON, to tax-exempt BP claims checks. It is the least we can do for those small business owners who continue to suffer to this day, mom and pop fishing charters. They must provide years' worth of financial data in order to prove the possibility of economic injury as a result of the spill.

□ 1650

Of course, this data does not truly explain the current hardship. For years, Keys fishermen have struggled with hurricanes, tropical storms, unnecessary fishing closures, and a sluggish tourist economy. This year, 2010, was supposed to represent the light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, the gulf oil spill has dashed those hopes. Charter boat captains in the Keys have lost more than half of their businesses this summer due to the oil spill perception.

My constituent, an Islamorada charter boat captain, Larry Wren, was denied financial compensation by BP. Captain Wren provided all the necessary tax documents, proof of cancellations, and even his trip logs from the past few years. After being informed that he was eligible for assistance, BP claims officials have reversed their position. BP says it will no longer pay the claim because oil has yet to reach the Florida Keys' shoreline, if it ever will.

I say shame on BP. BP must be held to task. The company's responsibility to all financially impacted gulf coast residents and businesses will not go away once the relief well is completed.

Now, earlier today, I voted on legislation to increase Federal research on the potential hazards posed by technologies used to counter the oil spill. I have long voiced my concerns about the use of chemical dispersants in such a sensitive marine ecosystem. BP contends that the chemical it is using to break down the oil is safe, but the fact remains that this dispersant has never been used in such vast quantities.

Keys commercial fishermen, whose season kicks off later this year, are also concerned about the long-term consequences of dispersants on the overall health of the fishery. Members

of the environmental community are also worried about the potential harm caused by these chemicals on our already fragile coral reefs.

As BP works toward a permanent fix to the leak in the Gulf of Mexico, it is essential that Congress and all Federal agencies continue to place pressure on this oil giant to address both the environmental and the financial aspects of this disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SABLAM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SAVING THE ICONIC AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS, THE AUTO DEALERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, about a year ago, both General Motors and Chrysler went through a government orchestrated bankruptcy in an effort to save these iconic American manufacturers. I firmly believe that the survival of these companies was then and is today vital to our national economy as well as to our national security.

While I am very thankful that these companies are coming back strong, I do have serious questions over steps that were taken, most importantly, the shuttering of thousands of car dealerships across the Nation and the elimination of countless jobs that were produced in those auto dealerships. I didn't understand, when these bankruptcies were moving forward, how the elimination of thousands of dealerships, who are really the customers of the auto companies, would help to provide any savings to the bottom line for General Motors or Chrysler. I also did not understand how the arbitrary elimination of thousands of profitable small businesses and the elimination of tens of thousands of good-paying American jobs were in the best interest of our Nation or in line with the stated desire of this administration to protect and to create jobs.

Based on a recent report that was just released this past Sunday, it seems now that the inspector general of the TARP program, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, is also asking these same