

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

APPROVAL OF JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Member on the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, I am acutely aware of the harmful influence the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies have on the security situation in the Greater Middle East. Simply put, Iran pursues policies that threaten U.S. strategic interests and goals throughout the Middle East, often by enflaming sectarian tensions that are exploited by violent extremist elements in the region.

However, despite my clear and deep mistrust of Iran, I firmly support the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This hard-fought multilateral agreement will severely limit Iran's nuclear ambitions, establish a verifiable and robust inspection regime, allow for the timely reinstatement of sanctions for violations of this agreement, and in no way limit U.S. military options. If fully implemented and rigorously enforced, the JCPOA will result in the removal of a source of risk and uncertainty within the region for the foreseeable future. I believe this will substantially increase the security for our nation and all of our regional allies.

Under the JCPOA, Iran's access to nuclear material will be significantly curtailed from what we know exists today. Specifically, Iran will not produce or acquire either highly enriched uranium or weapons-grade plutonium for at least 15 years, and they will reduce their stockpile of low enriched uranium by 98 percent, from 12,000 kilograms to 300 kilograms. Additionally, two-thirds of Iran's centrifuges will be removed from nuclear facilities, to be secured and constantly monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Also important to note is the commitment Iran has made under the agreement to not pursue certain research and development programs directly linked to the development of a nuclear weapon. All told, these restrictions significantly increase the amount of time Iran would need to produce enough fissile material for a weapon and to build a nuclear device.

The agreement provides for the establishment of a verifiable and robust inspection system, including constant monitoring of Iran's known nuclear facilities throughout the entire chain of development, from the uranium mines to its centrifuges. Access to the supply chain makes it improbable that Iran could establish a covert nuclear program without detection. Further, the JCPOA ensures continuous monitoring of Iran's declared nuclear facilities and IAEA inspectors can request access to any location they suspect is involved with nuclear activities, including military sites. In anticipation of difficulties with access, the JCPOA contains a dispute resolution mechanism should

Iran deny the IAEA access to any site. While the time allowed for the dispute resolution process has been criticized as too lengthy, I am certain any suspicious site will receive the full attention of U.S. observation assets during that period. Additionally, nuclear inspection experts express the utmost confidence that IAEA environmental sampling would detect the presence of any nuclear material.

In order to receive new sanctions relief, Iran must satisfy IAEA demands about the possible military dimensions of its nuclear program, dismantle the vast majority of its uranium capability, and remove the core from the Arak reactor. To receive full relief from the remaining sanctions, Iran must continue meeting commitments for the years agreed to in the JCPOA. If the terms of the agreement are not met at any time, the JCPOA provides for the ability to re-impose both unilateral and multilateral nuclear-related sanctions. And notably, the agreement allows the U.S. and its European allies to re-impose United Nations sanctions over the objections of any member of the Security Council, including China or Russia.

Further, the JCPOA only applies to nuclear-related sanctions. The United States will maintain several strong sanctions authorities due to Iran's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism and for its abysmal record on human rights. For example, U.S. sanctions will continue to apply to several top-level officials in Iran's security apparatus, to the transfer of weapons of mass destruction technologies, missile technologies, and conventional weapons.

Finally, the agreement in no way constrains the U.S. military options at our disposal, as has been repeatedly pointed out by General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in testimony before Congress.

I cannot argue that the JCPOA is perfect, and I share the frustration expressed by its opponents with its limited scope. In particular, I would have preferred if the agreement kept the constraints on Iran's nuclear program for longer periods of time, further reduced the number of operational centrifuges, did not allow for the future elimination of sanctions on conventional arms and ballistic missiles, contained restrictions on Iran's use of the sanctions relief, and addressed the detention of American citizens in Iran. However, in any negotiation, especially one with many sovereign nations, each having their own economic and security considerations, some compromise is necessary. Critically, I believe the agreement reached accomplishes the goal of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

I fundamentally disagree with those supporters of the deal who have stated that "war" will be the immediate result if the agreement is rejected, and find that opponents of the deal have only presented alternatives that are best described as delusional. Rather, I concur with the sentiments of my esteemed friend, and former Senator, Richard Lugar, who recently wrote that Congressional rejection of the Iran deal would, "kill the last chance for Washington to reach a verifiable Iranian commit-

ment not to build a nuclear weapon," and, "destroy the effective coalition that brought Iran to the negotiating table." We cannot reasonably expect foreign nations, even our closest allies, to continue making costly sacrifices at our demand if the U.S. unilaterally withdraws from its commitment to the JCPOA. And I can say with some confidence that China and Russia will have no hesitation to resume trade with Iran if the agreement were rejected. Iran negotiated because of crippling sanctions and a unified international community, neither of which will exist should Congress reject this agreement.

The ultimate success or failure of the JCPOA will be determined by time and verification based on Iranian behavior. However, it is vital for the duration of the agreement that the U.S. leads the international community to maintain focus on Iran's compliance and ensure that Iran does not undermine regional stability through other pathways, negating the security gains from this agreement. To accomplish this, we must remain steadfast in our commitments to all of our regional partners, including Israel, and help improve their capacity to counter Iran and mitigate the effects of their malign activity. Additionally, we must keep combining diplomacy, economic pressure, and the resolve to keep military options on the table.

Assuming the agreement is affirmed, I ask all to constructively work to improve the security situation in the Middle East rather than using all their energy to undermine the agreement. We cannot rely on force of arms alone to bring lasting stability to any region of our world. And I hope that the exhaustive multilateral negotiations that led to the JCPOA will serve as a template for future U.S. and international engagement on other outstanding issues that have led to instability and violence in the region.

APPROVAL OF JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) negotiated by the Administration and under consideration by Congress. I believe that this agreement is the best way forward to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and provides the United States and our allies with mechanisms to monitor and verify Iran's nuclear program. The agreement has the support of the international community and it gives us the best opportunity to avoid direct military conflict with Iran. Many men and women from Guam have paid the ultimate sacrifice in support of our country across the world, but most especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. Every lost or wounded servicemember is

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

a constant reminder of the ultimate price we pay when diplomacy fails or, worse, isn't attempted. As Guam's representative to Congress, I have a responsibility to my constituents to use my best judgment and to do what is necessary to avoid putting their lives at risk when there are other options to solve serious geopolitical challenges.

As Congress debates the JCPOA, it is important to recognize that the effort to halt Iran's effort to obtain nuclear weapons was not a unilateral effort by the United States but rather a multilateral effort with other countries holding a vested interest in a nuclear-free Iran. To believe that these countries will agree to renegotiate the agreement ignores the political realities of the P5+1 countries. If Congress votes to reject this agreement, it would impede our ability to promote nuclear nonproliferation in the Middle East, and there are no guarantees that other nations, such as China and Russia, would continue to impose economic sanctions on Iran. This past weekend, regarding the other nations, former Secretary of State Colin Powell stated, "... they're all going to be moving forward. We're going to be standing in the sidelines." The United States does not belong on the sidelines. We must recognize the political realities of this deal regardless of whether it is perfect or not. It is folly to believe that a better deal is out there if we reject the JCPOA.

As the representative of the people of Guam, I understand the dangers when hostile nations are able to obtain nuclear weapons; my constituents live under threat that North Korea could develop nuclear weapons that directly threatens our island. While there are flaws in the agreement that was reached in 1994 with North Korea, I believe it is important that we give this deal a chance to be implemented. Though we always reserve the right to defend our nation, our allies, and our interests, our values dictate that the United States does not have to lead with the sword. Diplomacy is always preferable to a military solution. However, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter noted that military options remain viable should Iran violate the agreement. He wrote, "... nothing in the Iran deal constrains the U.S. Defense Department in any way or its ability to carry out such a mission."

I have reviewed the agreement and have been briefed by Secretary of State John Kerry and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, who led the U.S. negotiating team. I find their explanations of the agreement's details and arguments in favor of its adoption to be compelling. While I cannot vote on the floor of the House of Representatives, it is my responsibility to make my position on an issue of such importance known to my constituents and to our nation. I support the JCPOA and urge my colleagues to reject efforts to play politics with our national security.

HONORING MR. EDWARD F.
MCELROY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of a Chicagoland icon, Mr. Edward F. McElroy. It is my pleasure

to pay homage to a man who has entertained and informed residents of Chicagoland for almost 70 years.

Ed McElroy began his long and storied career in 1946 under the guidance of radio personality Bob Elson. His first opportunity to cover nationwide news and sports came with Eddie Hubbard on the Chesterfield Show for WIND, and in 1950, he joined WJJD, another local station in Chicago.

Over the last 70 years, Mr. McElroy has delivered news to Chicagoland on an incredible variety of platforms and his work continues today. He currently hosts the TV shows Community in Focus and the Ed McElroy Show where he interviews local newsmakers.

Outside of the enduring impact his work in broadcasting has had on the people of Chicago, Ed McElroy also deserves recognition for his outstanding service to his community. Mr. McElroy has always been willing to take time out of his busy schedule for those in need. He has entertained hospitalized veterans and underprivileged children at LaRabida Children's Hospital and he visits schools to teach students about patriotism.

Veterans in particular have benefited from the generosity of Ed McElroy. A veteran himself, Mr. McElroy served our country during World War II in the Army Air Corps and became involved in veterans issues shortly after his service. Among his long list of accolades, he has served as National Commander of the Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America, as well as State Commander for Illinois.

Finally, Ed McElroy has been consistently active with the Chicago Policy Department. His efforts to improve the welfare of Chicago Police Officers and their families have been recognized by police organizations across Chicagoland.

Mr. McElroy, father of three and grandfather of six, has had a hugely successful career and continues to have an impact on the day-to-day lives of Chicago area residents. I ask my colleagues to please join me in celebrating the 90th birthday of Edward F. McElroy.

REMEMBERING ELEANOR BENSON

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT
OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, last week, a woman from my community passed away. Her name was Eleanor Benson. We all have a handful of people who actually impact our lives, and this woman is partially responsible for why I'm behind this microphone. She changed my life. She had a passion and energy that could not be stopped, and she will be dearly missed by our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. CHRISTOPHER
PUTO

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Christopher P. Puto, who will be

installed as the 37th President of Spring Hill College, the oldest Catholic college in the Southeast, on September 17. Spring Hill College is located in Mobile, Alabama, which is the largest city in Alabama's First Congressional District.

Dr. Puto will be returning to Spring Hill College, where he graduated in 1964 with a degree in economics. He then went on to earn a Master of Business Administration in marketing from the University of Miami followed by a Doctorate in Business Administration from Duke University, my own alma mater.

In 1998, as dean of the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, he introduced a new MBA program curriculum and initiated a curriculum redesign for the undergraduate business program. He also created a comprehensive strategic planning process for the school and raised \$80 million in the first three years of a \$150 million capital campaign.

From 2002 to 2014, Dr. Puto served as the dean and the Opus Distinguished Chair in the Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas, a Catholic college in Minnesota. At St. Thomas, Dr. Puto designed and introduced the university's first full-time MBA program and first full-time accountancy program.

In addition to his contributions to academia, Dr. Puto has also achieved success through industry and consulting experience. In fact, he started his career as an allied sales manager at Burger King Corporation, where he played a part in developing the "Have It Your Way" advertising campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Puto back to Southwest Alabama. Spring Hill College has long been a critical part of the local community, and I look forward to working with Dr. Puto in his new role.

HONORING JONATHAN DYER

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER
OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jonathan Dyer who has achieved the Eagle Scout award, a Boy Scout's highest honor. This recognition is well deserved and represents these young men's commitment to public service.

Achieving the status of Eagle Scout is a huge accomplishment, and I commend Mr. Dyer for being a positive role model to young people across our great state and the nation through his commitment to community service.

Once again, congratulations to this young man for his outstanding accomplishment. I am very proud of him and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month and its 2015 theme, Honoring Our Heritage. Building Our Future. The people of the United