

He should be able to visit his homeland.

China also should demonstrate true respect for the human rights and religious freedom of the Tibetan people. A first step would be to permit an independent international investigation into the July 2015 death, in custody, of revered lama Tenzin Delek Rinpoche.

On our side, the new Trump administration needs to appoint the Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues as quickly as possible. To make progress, we need someone in charge. They must insist that China restart the dialogue to lead a negotiated agreement in Tibet.

They should develop a list of Chinese officials subject to sanction under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. No one responsible for torture and extrajudicial killings or for significant corruption should benefit from coming to our country and doing business here.

They should publicly engage the Dalai Lama and the democratically elected leader of the Tibetan people. The State Department should take every opportunity to benefit from the Dalai Lama's knowledge and decades of reflections.

The Secretary of State should highlight the democratic practices of the Tibetan people and meet personally with the Sikyong, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, and the administration should also engage other governments to create a group of friends of Tibet. It is time to pursue a coordinated international action in support of the Tibetan people.

Mr. Speaker, time may be running out for the Tibetan people. All those who say they believe in the rights of Tibetans must move beyond words to concrete actions.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1872, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, and to support additional measures to protect all that is unique about Tibet and its people.

SUPPORTING TIBET

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about something that I hold near and dear to my heart: the plight of the people of Tibet and of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

The forced exile of His Holiness is a source of profound sorrow for the people of Tibet. For over 60 years, the Communist regime in Beijing has refused to allow this kind, compassionate man to come home, while systematically persecuting the Tibetan people, denying them even the most basic human rights and freedom, and implementing policies designed to wipe out the culture of Tibet.

In 2007, I authored legislation that paved the way for Congress to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to the Dalai Lama. A decade later, I am

concerned that issues in Tibet are being pushed to the sidelines, a mistake that could have profound consequences not only for Tibet, but for the entire Asian Continent.

Known as the "Roof of the World," the Tibetan plateau is the source of many of Asia's major rivers, making the Chinese regime's threat to Tibet's stability a strategically important security issue for the entire region.

Last month, I was proud to join Congressman McGOVERN in sending a letter in support of the appointment of a Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues at the State Department. I am also proud to cosponsor Mr. McGOVERN's bill, the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, which is designed to help stop China's destabilizing behavior in Tibet by revoking the visa of any Chinese official found to be responsible for restricting the access of U.S. citizens to Tibet.

Last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with Richard Gere, an activist who helps to bring more attention and awareness to this very important matter. As His Holiness has said: "In the practice of tolerance, one's enemy is the best teacher."

It is essential, Mr. Speaker, that we in Congress advocate on behalf of the people of Tibet and join forces to combat the Chinese regime's increasing aggression.

ISRAEL'S 69TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the democratic Jewish State of Israel's 69th Independence Day.

For the Jewish people to have not only survived the Holocaust and the Nazi effort to eradicate them from the planet and then to establish a state of their own in their historical and biblical homeland is nothing short of a miracle. And in just seven decades, not only has Israel arisen, it has thrived, becoming one of the world's great democracies and the epicenter of high tech all over the world.

I am frequently asked: Why Israel? Why do I so strongly support Israel and the U.S.-Israel alliance? It is because, in Israel, I see a nation and a people who share the same ideals and the same values that we in America have: two societies committed to freedom, committed to democracy, and that understand the need to protect those ideals. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, defending Israel's right to exist is defending the values that we cherish so greatly and our way of life that we hold dear.

So to Prime Minister Netanyahu and to the people of Israel, I wish you all the very best on all that you have accomplished and achieved, and may the Jewish state be blessed with peace and security for many years to come.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to the Falic family—Simon, Jana, and Tila Falic—for their kind invitation to celebrate this momentous occasion in south Florida. I know how deeply the Falics care for the U.S.-

Israel alliance and just how much they have done for that partnership as well as for south Florida's Jewish community, so I am sure that those events were great. Thank you to the Falic family.

I wish all who celebrated this morning at the Hebrew Academy in Miami Beach, located in my congressional district, a very happy new year. I know that last night's ceremony to commemorate Israel's Memorial Day meant so much to the community. How special is it, Mr. Speaker, that Israel commemorates their fallen the night before they celebrate what their fallen helped to establish and to protect?

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in sending our friends in Israel warm wishes today.

Mazel tov.

CONGRESS' COMMITMENT TO GOVERN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening I began my remarks by saying, "Say it is not so"; and I rise again this morning, as we begin our journey on ensuring that the government does not shut down and again rebutting TrumpCare that is so devastating, to say, "Say it is not so."

This morning we rose to headlines of the President of the United States saying that the government needs a shutdown in September. I am glad Democrats recognize that we do not represent just Democrats. We represent the entire Nation, and we owe them a commitment to govern, and that is what we will do.

We now will face another attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare. I am glad that Democrats have come together around common sense and the responsibility of serving not only the healthy, but the sick.

Last evening, in a very emotional testimony, one of our late-night hosts who entertains America every night, gave an emotional statement about his infant son who was receiving heart surgery. In his tears, his excitement for the success, but also his pain that people who did not have money, as we debate this frivolous healthcare bill, will be subject to the dangers and the devastation and the potential death of a child they love.

Say it is not so.

And I remember when we started the Affordable Care Act, as a member of the Judiciary Committee—all committees were involved in this process. I remember us holding Democratic hearings to listen to families who were suffering and were the brunt of not having health insurance:

The father who had a medical student son who was interning in Atlanta who had to drive with great fury to pick him up to be able to take him back to Washington, D.C., when he had an immediate attack of an appendix,

laying him on his back seat because the insurance that the young man had only covered him in the city of Washington, D.C., where he was going to medical school.

Or I remember the mother whose son was a drug abuser—but a lawyer, got himself back on track but suffered from hepatitis—whose son died in the emergency room because he did not have the medical coverage as he was getting his life back to help stabilize him, died in that medical condition and in that emergency room.

Those are just a few stories of those who died because they did not have health insurance pre the Affordable Care Act.

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Now, today we come with a bill that is going to eviscerate the sick people with preexisting diseases—it is not like the Affordable Care Act—and literally throw them under the bus. Because what they are doing is taking away essential services and saying that there is no room at the inn for those with preexisting conditions, such as diabetes, asthma, allergic conditions, heart disease, cancer, leukemia, or a baby that is born with a heart defect.

It is tragic that the bill they are putting on the floor is taking away essential services, like mental health, substance abuse, hospitalization, maternity; and they are throwing them to the States. If your State will do it, so what. I live in a State—as we all do, we love our State—they are facing fiscal crisis.

Do you think they are going to take the sickest?

No, they are not.

Twenty-four million people will still lose their insurance. Hardworking families will have no health insurance. Those with preexisting conditions, under the Trump plan, still remain in the darkness of corners, not helped, and ready to die.

What family wants to subject their loved one to a place where they have no hope?

Then, of course, there is the horrific age tax. The premiums for those between age 50 and 64, hardworking Americans, just because they have reached a certain age, their premiums will shoot through the roof. These are people who have made and built this country with their hands and their minds, our mothers and fathers, and even ourselves. How tragic it is to be able to have these kinds of conditions. Then, of course, it will shorten the life of the Medicare trust and literally implode that.

This is governing?

I don't think so. I don't think so. And I, for one, am not going to stand for it because it is important that our people understand that we govern as Democrats.

As we put this bill on the floor to keep from closing this government, let me just say to you quickly that we have upped the NIH—the National In-

stitutes of Health—with \$2 billion. We have preserved the yearlong Pell, and we have funded housing so people don't have to be thrown out of housing.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats know how to govern and save this country. I don't know what this person is doing at all.

CONGRATULATING PENN STATE ON CHILD MALTREATMENT STUDIES CENTER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, roughly 2 million children experience maltreatment each year in the United States. Children who experience maltreatment face the possibility of a lifetime struggle with mental, emotional, behavioral, and physical health difficulties.

Thankfully, the National Institutes of Health recognizes the need for critical research on the topic and solicited a competitive process to fund an academic institution to study this for the first time ever.

Proudly, it chose Penn State University. Penn State was selected based on scientific merit to establish the Center for Healthy Children. It will receive a grant of \$7.7 million over 5 years, and Penn State has committed \$3.4 million in funding, bringing the total to more than \$11 million.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first national center for child maltreatment studies. The award announcement came in April during National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The research generated will impact lives nationwide and throughout the world.

Penn State president, Eric Barron, noted that they recruited the best and the brightest researchers to work on this issue. The faculty will conduct cutting-edge research focused on the detection, treatment, and prevention of child abuse, and for training the next generation of scientists and child advocates.

Leading the research project is Jennifer Noll, professor of human development and family studies at Penn State College of Health and Human Development and director of the Child Maltreatment Solutions Network. A team of distinguished researchers will work with Noll on the project.

Noll said:

“It is an incredible honor to be selected by the NIH as an organization that has the capacity to make a tangible impact on the lives of children. I’m inspired to be working with this incredibly talented group of world-renowned researchers as we forge this vital path ahead.”

Mr. Speaker, more than 1,500 U.S. children die annually from child abuse. That number is similar to the mortality rate from all forms of pediatric cancer combined. Roughly 40 percent of child maltreatment deaths result from abusive head trauma. That is heart-breaking, and it is wrong.

So I congratulate Penn State University for leading the effort nationally to fully research this critical issue. Together, we can help all children see a better future.

THANKING JONI L. IVEY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF VIRGINIA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable woman who has dedicated the last 40 years of her life to serving the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia—my friend, closest adviser, and chief of staff, Joni Ivey.

Joni was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia. She grew up in Newsome Park and was one of seven children of Willie and Carnetta Ivey. She graduated from Carver High School in 1971, the last graduating class of the segregated high school that was closed when local schools were racially integrated. Joni went on to attend Christopher Newport University and graduated from Norfolk State University.

I first met Joni in 1976, when she was working on Reverend Henry Maxwell’s unsuccessful campaign for the Newport News City Council. I was impressed with her work ethic, her dedication to her community, and her political acumen. I was so impressed that I asked her to serve on my first campaign for the House of Delegates in 1977. That started a 40-year friendship and working relationship that took us to the House of Delegates after that election to the Virginia Senate in 1983, and ultimately to the United States Congress in 1993.

Joni has served alongside me every step of the way and has been a selfless, behind-the-scenes public servant for the citizens of Virginia. Serving the public and helping those most in need has always driven her. Her passion in this regard has helped ground me and our staff to focus on what we can do every day we are fortunate enough to be in a position to make better the lives of those we serve.

Joni’s commitment to this ideal is not just at work. Joni spends nearly every waking moment of her free time outside of the office helping others, either through her involvement in her church, Ivy Baptist Church in Newport News, or work with the local NAACP where she once served as branch president, by tutoring young people in Newport News, working with the local food bank, or through her service in The Links, Incorporated. Joni has always given back to her community.

Even with all that she does in her community, she always has time for her family. She is a proud aunt to her nieces and nephews, a dedicated daughter to her mother, and a caring sister to her siblings.