

my remaining eyesight and renal function should never be less important than anything in politics. And while I know that there are many, many people in this same boat, for today, while I write this letter, it's about my kids getting to keep their mom and about me keeping the ability to see them grow up.

"I write because it needs to be said and needs to be heard and needs to be ACTED on.

" . . . in the past I've paid a lot and had my share of insurance issues, but at least I could choose my own doctor. At least in crisis (which I've had) I went straight to the doctor who knew me and my history and they could resolve it without a referral and delay after delay after delay.

"HMO might work for some, but not for those who don't want one.

"I'm not asking for a hand-out. I am asking for reasonable choice of a basic PPO for which I have paid for in past and am asking to have the option to pay for now. I'm not writing just to vent—I'm asking for some kind of solution to this train wreck of healthcare options or lack thereof.

"If President Obama thinks this is actually working, he's more blind than me."

Andrea, we have a plan to help you up. It is called A Better Way. How about this: Allow coverage across state lines, expand opportunities for pooling, make coverage portable, Medicare laws reformed, and preexisting condition protections.

That is a better way. That is what the American people deserve. We will keep fighting for Andrea and people like her.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, who better to close out our Special Order than a gentleman, a doctor who has employed hundreds of people and has worked with thousands of patients?

You may have heard the false narrative that, yes, we have contributed in breaking the program, from the Democrat's perspective, and you guys need to fix it, but you don't have a plan.

Well, that is a false narrative and here to tell you why is Dr. PHIL ROE.

I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in the well of the House tonight remembering 8 years ago when I stood here. I am the only one, other than PETE OLSON, that was here that has spoken tonight.

I actually left my medical practice of 31 years. I have been a physician—it is hard to believe—46 years. I ran for Congress because I wanted to be involved in the healthcare debate. I realize that the American people needed healthcare reform.

One of the most disappointing things I have had since I have been in the U.S. Congress was, when I showed up here, I naively thought that people cared what I thought. I found out I was wrong about that.

We had nine physicians in the Doctors Caucus on the Republican side in

2009, and not one of us was asked one thing about that healthcare bill. Not one Republican amendment to that bill that would have made it better was ruled in order.

So it was passed on one-party rule, and now the Democrat party owns it. Unfortunately, patients own it. And that is what I came here to do, was to try to help people.

I had spent 31 years of my life in the small town of Johnson City, Tennessee, practicing medicine and trying to do a good job for patients that I saw every single day.

You have heard it many times before: If you liked your doctor, you can keep it. We are going to reduce your premiums by \$2,500.

The President also said that I will go over this bill line by line with anyone who wants to. We asked to do that on multiple occasions, and I am still waiting for my cell phone to ring.

So we have heard over and over and over again that the Republicans have no ideas. Two Congresses ago we were challenged and asked to write a Republican alternative to the Affordable Care Act, and we did just that.

I want to show you out there tonight—those of you who are watching—this is the bill right here. It is a 184-page bill. You can read it in an hour or so or less than that.

I read the entire Affordable Care Act. I felt like I should. I didn't pass it and see what was in it. I actually read it ahead of time.

We had healthcare reform in Tennessee in the nineties called TennCare. I wrote the epitaph on this bill with MARSHA BLACKBURN in 2010, if anyone is interested in reading that.

So what did we do with this bill?

With the Affordable Care Act, the Federal Government said: You will purchase 10 essential health benefits or your insurance is no good. You have to get rid of it.

And this 10 essential health benefits cost, in many cases, is a lot of money.

Then what do we do?

We passed a tax, a mandate, a fine, a penalty, whatever Judge Roberts decided he wanted to decide that it was, or define it, I should say. But here we are passing a mandate for people to purchase something they can't afford. I find that astonishing that you tax people for something they cannot buy.

So what our bill did was repeal the Affordable Care Act. It then massively expanded health savings accounts. Look, there are Indian tribes out there that use the Indian Health Service that can't have an HSA. There are disabled veterans that can't have an HSA. There are retired people that can't have HSAs. We expanded that. I have used them in my own practice for patients. I use one myself.

We used high-risk pools, and we expanded ERISA benefits to help offset preexisting conditions. Quite frankly, I think in two paragraphs I could have done two-thirds of what the Affordable Care Act did, which is expand Med-

icaid, which is a system that needs to be reformed, and allowed 26-year-olds to stay on their parents healthcare plan.

□ 2000

We also allow you to buy across State lines with association health plans, malpractice reforms, and transparency. It is a very simple, patient-centered bill. We have said this before, our bill is open for amendment. If a Democrat has a good idea, I am open to listen to it. The main thing is I want patients and doctors to be in charge of their healthcare decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight, and I look forward to going into much more detail about the details of this particular bill.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the bottom line to the American people is this: it is time to return healthcare choices to the American people.

God bless and good night.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S LEGACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important elements of this Republic is the ability of the people to understand and to remember the public actions and record of those they elect. This is vital to government accountability, to historical accuracy, and to the future direction of the future generations of this country.

So, Mr. Speaker, what follows is the record and legacy of President Barack Obama.

Last night, Mr. Speaker, President Barack Obama gave his farewell address to the Nation. In his speech, President Obama praised American exceptionalism for the very first time since his Presidency began. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, much of the remainder of the President's speech was far removed from reality.

Mr. Obama implied that his Presidency had increased trust and respect for America. Yet, the truth is that under Mr. Obama's Presidency, the trust and respect that both friend and foe alike previously had for America has been demonstrably diminished across the world. Mr. Obama, in fact, weakened our economy and led the most anemic military campaign in our history. So, Mr. Speaker, let us now recall the grand promise of candidate Barack Obama, bedecked with Greek columns and the rhetoric of bipartisan unity as it was, and let's compare it to the actual legacy of President Barack Obama, the partisan heckler at home and the lead from behind, apologize for America, academic abroad who was evermore eager to force Catholic nuns to buy birth control than he was to fight the ruthless butchers of the Islamic State.

Mr. Speaker, President Barack Obama has taken credit for a growing economy, but, after his failed stimulus, his was the worst economic recovery in the history of America. And his Presidency will be the first in modern times whose 8 years in office will fail to include even 1 year of 3 percent economic growth.

Under Barack Obama's Presidency, the number of long-term unemployed eclipsed 15 million for the very first time in history.

Today, 95 million Americans, the highest number in history, are now not in the workforce in America. And according to the latest numbers from the Census Bureau, household income fell by more than \$2,100 in inflation-adjusted terms; and 45.3 million Americans, the highest number in history, now live in poverty. More than 43 million Americans were receiving food stamps under Barack Obama, the highest number in history.

Barack Obama single-handedly added almost as much deficit to the national debt as all of the other Presidents in the 240-year history of the United States of America combined. And Standard & Poor's downgraded the U.S. Government from its AAA credit rating for the very first time in history.

Mr. Obama's signature policy achieved what was called the Affordable Care Act. As we have learned year after year, essentially nothing Mr. Obama said about the Affordable Care Act was true. ObamaCare contained over \$1 trillion in new taxes, which was the largest tax increase in history. Yet, millions remain uninsured. Healthcare costs have never been higher, and the entire debacle called ObamaCare is now catastrophically collapsing before our very eyes.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Obama engineered the sequester on the military which had devastating consequences on our men and women in uniform and our ability to fight and win wars when necessary. Mr. Obama's was the opposite of a commitment to peace through strength.

When it came to justice at home, Barack Obama told us that adult male transvestites had the moral right and the legal right to go into the bathroom with little schoolgirls whether their parents liked it or not. He fundamentally sought to abrogate religious freedom in America. He weaponized the Internal Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Attorney General's Office, and the Justice Department against America's own citizens. It was and is the epitome of tyranny.

Mr. Obama unconstitutionally ignored and selectively applied America's immigration laws and illegally suspended immigration enforcement. He released 19,723 criminal illegal immigrants from prison into every State of the Union. These nearly 20,000 criminal illegal aliens were collectively convicted of over 60,000 crimes, including over 12,000 drunk driving convictions,

and over 8,000 violent crimes such as assault, rape, and murder.

Mr. Obama's actions endangered Americans and denied justice to the victims of their crimes. Mr. Obama bears a share of the responsibility for every crime that these criminals have committed or will commit against Americans since he released them from prison into American society.

But, Mr. Speaker, perhaps Mr. Obama's most egregious broken promise to all Americans is when he said: "I, Barack Hussein Obama, do solemnly swear that I will execute the Office of President of the United States faithfully, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." Since then, he has shown complete and open contempt for the Constitution.

Barack Obama blatantly stoked racial tensions in America, and, in the process, he painted a deadly target on the backs of the noble men and women in blue who risk their lives every day to protect the innocent citizens of this Nation.

Barack Obama consistently subjected Americans to condescending lectures. If we opposed ObamaCare, we didn't want people to have health insurance.

If we opposed wasteful stimulus spending, we hated schoolteachers and firemen.

If we opposed the nuclear deal with Iran, we were compared to terrorist-sponsoring Iranian mullahs.

If we believe in God and exercised our Second Amendment right, we were bitter.

If we didn't believe in open, unsecured borders and vetting those who came into this country, we were un-American.

If we believed in protecting unborn baby girls from being killed simply because they are little girls, we were waging war on women.

And Mr. Obama was also fond of using politically correct euphemisms and constantly using them to distort nearly every issue.

Evacuation of our Embassy in Yemen was "a reduction in staff."

Terror attacks are "man-caused disasters."

The global war on terror is an "overseas contingency operation."

An Islamic terrorist murdering 13 American soldiers is "workplace violence."

Terrorists beheading children, crucifying women, and burning men alive in the name of Islam are "individuals from various religions" who practice "hateful ideologies."

Veterans, pro-life groups, and States' rights advocates were listed as "at-risk" to become domestic terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, from day one, Barack Obama considered the cold war a giant misunderstanding. He did his famous reset with Russia and then turned and caved into everything that they wanted. Mr. Obama's policies of weakness and appeasement yielded Crimea, the South China Sea, the rise of the Is-

lamic State, the return of Iran, and the unspeakable desecration of thousands upon thousands of innocent people in Aleppo where the result to date is now where 4 million refugees and 400,000 people are dead. And during the so-called Arab Spring, the Obama administration sided with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.

At the end of the Obama administration, the only countries in the world that we have better relations with are Iran and Cuba—and even that has been entirely on their terms.

Mr. Speaker, the average number of innocents killed by terrorists before the Obama Presidency was approximately 3,000 per year in the world. Now, under Barack Obama, it is probably 30,000 every year. Mr. Obama labeled the Islamic State a junior varsity team, and then stood by with a golf club in his hand while ISIS raped, butchered, and beheaded its way across Iraq, selling little, 6-year-old girls into slavery, burning people alive, and perpetrating a genocide against Christians and Yazidis. The Islamic State now keeps an estimated 3,000 girls and women in sexual slavery while Mr. Obama runs out the clock on his term of office and hands the fight against ISIS off to the next President.

Because of his delusional negotiation and acquiescence, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the number one sponsor of terrorism in this world, may place the finger of jihad on the launch button of an entire nuclear arsenal; and America's children and future generations may thereafter be forced to live their lives in the shadow of nuclear terrorism.

Mr. Obama stood before a group of thousands of supporters of Israel and proclaimed: "When the chips are down, I have Israel's back." But then as President, he blatantly refused even to acknowledge Jerusalem as Israel's capital and consistently expressed more open rebuke toward Israel than he did toward Iran for building an entire nuclear effort to some day threaten the world.

I am going to say that again, Mr. Speaker.

As President, Mr. Obama blatantly refused to even acknowledge Jerusalem as Israel's capital. And he consistently expressed more open rebuke toward Israel for building houses in its capital city than he expressed for Iran's efforts to build nuclear weapons with which to existentially threaten Israel along with the peace and security of the entire human family.

In the political safety of his lame-duck, he orchestrated and failed to veto a resolution that undermines Israel's very right to exist. Mr. Speaker, it was a cowardly act of political treachery that disgraced the United States, and it will send Barack Obama's name down the corridor of history as an overt traitor to the State of Israel.

When the Security Council Quartet meets on January 15 and the full United Nations Security Council meets

on January 17, I am gravely concerned that Barack Obama will overturn U.S. precedent going back to Lyndon Johnson and use the opportunity to stab Israel in the back one final time by allowing the anti-Semites at the U.N. to attempt to redraw the map of Israel to indefensible pre-1967 borders, which would leave the only Jewish state less than 9 miles wide.

Mr. Speaker, no government leader has any greater responsibility than that of protecting the innocent. Yet, Mr. Obama stood by and allowed not only ISIS, Boko Haram, Russia, and Syria, but also Planned Parenthood to brutally desecrate the innocent on a horrific scale.

□ 2015

President Barack Obama went to great efforts, against taxpayers' wishes, to give billions of taxpayer dollars to Planned Parenthood to expand abortion on demand in America and throughout the world and to proactively promote policies to allow the indiscriminate killing of these, the most defenseless of all human beings.

As President, he appointed an empire of radically pro-abortion judges and government bureaucrats. When he was in the State legislature, Barack Obama actually voted "no" four times on a bill that would have protected babies after they were born alive.

In the U.S. Senate, Mr. Obama voted "no" on a bill that would have prohibited someone from taking a minor child out of State for an abortion without even notifying the child's parents.

He vowed to veto the Prenatal Non-discrimination Act, which would prohibit discriminating against an unborn baby girl by subjecting her to abortion simply because she is a little girl instead of a little boy.

He promised to veto the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, a bill that would have protected both mothers and their little pain-capable babies between the beginning of their sixth month of pregnancy from the unspeakable cruelty of Planned Parenthood and evil monsters like Kermit Gosnell.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps most astonishingly, Barack Obama, the President of the United States and the leader of the free world, wrote a letter to Congress and said he would veto the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to protect breathing, crying, kicking, born-alive human babies if it ever reached his desk.

Mr. Speaker, could not the President have agreed that little human babies who survive abortion and are born alive should be protected?

President Barack Obama's record is crystal clear. For his entire political life, he has strongly supported the full legalization of abortion on demand throughout all 9 months of pregnancy, for any reason or no reason, including sex selection, throughout all 9 months of pregnancy, and forcing American taxpayers to pay for it whether the taxpayers liked it or not.

Under Barack Obama, nearly 9 million innocent, defenseless little American babies were aborted before they ever saw the first smile of their mother.

Ironically, President Obama was in the unique position, perhaps among all other Presidents in history, of bringing this country together to protect these helpless little children. Yet, as the most powerful human being in the world, Mr. Obama chose to become the most powerful enemy of the most helpless human beings in the world. And nothing will stain his legacy or his claims of looking out for the little guy with more shame than going down in history as the "Abortion President."

Mr. Speaker, it gives me no pleasure to lay out this record. I truly and sincerely hoped for God's best for Barack Obama when he took office. I wrote him a letter, hoping that he would be remembered as someone who stood up for the Constitution and stood up for the innocent.

But in a Republic like ours, where the people are the final arbiters of our public policy and where those who would subvert this Republic consistently resort to deception and historical revisionism, an accurate record is vital to our Nation's survival and its future generations.

So, alas, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid Barack Obama tragically wasted his precious and historic opportunity. However, this is the true record of President Barack Obama and, to paraphrase William Wilberforce: We may choose to look the other way, but we can never again say that we did not know.

Mr. Speaker, Under President Obama, as of 2015, Democrats lost 900+ state legislature seats, 12 governors, 69 House seats, 13 Senate seats. Mr. Obama lost more U.S. Senate and U.S. House seats than any president since FDR. I would suggest this was not caused by a lack of political skills. It was Mr. Obama's policies and his attitude toward democracy and the Constitution that were so devastating to his Democrat party.

From the beginning of his presidency it was President Obama's theological conviction that America needed to be transformed into something far afield of the founding fathers dream.

Last night the President gave his farewell address to the country. In his speech, President Obama praised American exceptionalism for the first time in his presidency. Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, much of the remainder of the president's speech was far removed from reality.

Mr. Obama implied that his presidency increased America's wealth and power and respect. The truth is that under Mr. Obama's presidency, the trust and respect from both friend and foe for America has been demonstrably diminished across the world. Mr. Obama in fact weakened our economy and led the most anemic military campaign in our history.

One of the most important elements of this Republic is the ability of the people to understand and remember the public actions and record of those they elect. This is vital to the future direction of future generations of this country.

So I come before the House today in order to lay out, and call for the American people to reflect upon, the true record of Barack Obama's Presidency.

During this crucial moment of self-reflection happening in our great Republic, it is incumbent upon us to look back over the past eight years to fully comprehend what are the wages of two full terms of Progressive governance under President Barack Obama. Because Mr. Speaker, if Hillary Clinton had been elected president, the left-wing, mindset to ignore the foundations of this nation, the Constitution, and so many millions of those it was designed to protect, would have continued unabated and this Republic may have been lost.

Mr. Speaker, I solemnly wonder if America as a nation and Americans as individuals truly comprehend how close we came to actually losing this Republic and the founding fathers dream during the last election.

As Americans soberly reflect on that reality, let us now recall the grand promise of candidate Barack Obama, bedecked with Greek columns and the rhetoric of bipartisan unity as he was, and compare it to the actual legacy of President Barack Obama—the partisan heckler at home and the lead-from-behind, apologize for America, academic abroad who was ever more eager to force Catholic nuns to buy birth control than he was to fight the ruthless butchers of the Islamic State.

So Mr. Speaker, what follows is the record and the legacy of Barack Hussein Obama:

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Obama's presidency will be the first in modern times whose eight years in office will fail to include at least one year of 3 percent economic growth.

Mr. Obama has taken credit for a growing economy, but after his failed stimulus, his was the worst economic recovery in history.

Using the broadest measure of economic progress, growth in output, the growth rate over the first 25 quarters under Reagan was 34 percent versus 14.3 percent under Obama.

Yet, Under Barack Obama, the growth of a ravenous Leviathan called the federal government, grew larger and larger in scope and in power every single year he was president.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Under Barack Obama's presidency the number of Long-Term unemployed eclipsed 15 million for the first time in history.

As the Los Angeles Times notes, "The longer people remain jobless, the more likely they are to suffer the scarring effects of unemployment that can hurt their earnings permanently and create a cycle of instability."

WORK FORCE PARTICIPATION

The percentage of people participating in the labor market in January fell to 62.7 percent its lowest rate in 31 years.

On his watch, the number of people forced to work part time for economy reasons eclipsed 8 million for the first time in history.

On his watch, the average time it takes Americans to find a job reached the highest total in the history of the statistic being measured.

The unemployment rate among African Americans was nearly double what it was for white Americans

And today 95 million Americans, the highest number in history, are now not in the workforce in America.

INFLATION

Under Barack Obama, American Families faced Higher Costs on Nearly Everything:

Spending on gas, groceries, utility bills and health insurance premiums skyrocketed.

However Wages were Down: according to the latest numbers from the Census Bureau household incomes fell by more than \$2,100 in inflation-adjusted terms.”

TAXES

When it came to taxes, Barack Obama said, “No family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase.” He said that he “Will eliminate all income taxation of seniors making less than \$50,000 per year. This will eliminate taxes for 7 million seniors—saving them an average of \$1,400 a year—and will also mean that 27 million seniors will not need to file an income tax return, at all.”

However, Mr. Speaker, Obamacare alone contained at least 20 new or higher taxes on American families and small businesses, representing over \$1 trillion in tax increases, the largest tax increase in history. It has produced a crippling effect on the working and middle class. Mr. Obama’s tax increases include the Individual Mandate Excise Tax, Employer Mandate Tax, Surtax on Investment Income, taxes on health savings accounts, a hike in the Medicare Payroll Tax, and the elimination of the tax deduction for employer-provided retirement prescription drug coverage.

POVERTY

Under Barack Obama the number of Americans living at or below the poverty line went up 5.5 million between 2008 and 2013. A record number of 45.3 million Americans now live in poverty.

Under Mr. Obama’s presidency, the income gap between rich and poor reached its highest level in over 40 years, and the American poverty rate hit the highest level in the 52 year history of the statistic being measured.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON FOOD STAMPS

According to a report in the Washington Examiner, the number of Able-Bodied adults on food stamps doubled, from 1.9 million in 2008 to 3.9 million in 2010, when Mr. Obama suspended the work requirement.

On his watch, more than 43 million Americans were receiving food stamps, that’s an increase of 23% since January 2009 and more than at any time in American history.

NATIONAL DEBT

Barack Obama said, “I will not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits, either now or in the future.” And “Today, I’m pledging to cut the deficit we inherited in half by the end of my first term in office.”

Yet the reality was that under Mr. Obama’s presidency, America had the first \$1 trillion deficit in history. He raised the debt ceiling time and time again. He used scare tactics against seniors (“he said quote “cannot guarantee” Social Security checks will go out) as a means of getting way with another debt ceiling raise and Standard & Poor downgraded the U.S. government from its 70 year AAA credit rating for the first time in history.

He instituted Federal bailouts, including bailouts that went to hundreds of millions in executive bonuses. The Obama government alone was equal to the entire United States’ population in 1776. And he robbed the children coming up around her knees of their economic future and placed them on the path to national bankruptcy in order to ensure his radical, big-government agenda was implemented. Barack Obama single-handedly added almost as much deficit to the national debt as all of the

other presidents in the 240 year history of the United States of America combined.

MILITARY READINESS

Mr. Obama engineered the sequester on the military which had devastating consequences to our ability to fight and win wars when necessary. The army is now the smallest it has been since Pearl Harbor; the Navy has shrunk to WWI levels; missile defense was cut every year he was in office, and the Pentagon was turned into a politically correct playground for social experimentation. During that same time, North Korea, one of the most dangerous police states in the world, tested nuclear weapons 5 times. Mr. Obama’s was the opposite of a commitment to peace through strength.

The reason President Obama’s legacy will be endless war is because America’s enemies knew he never had the commitment or the will to win any war. So all they had to do was wait him out. And that’s exactly what they did; and so many people suffered and died as a result.

When Mr. Obama was negotiating the New Start Treaty, he was caught on camera secretly asking Russian President Medvedev to “Give me more time until the elections”. At least he meant for it to be a secret. Then after the elections he gave up far more that America got in return in that treaty, demonstrably diminished the strength of our nuclear deterrent and gave Russia a lopsided advantage over America in tactical nuclear weapons. I pray our children and grandchildren do not pay unthinkable price someday for the feckless and cowardly policy Mr. Obama negotiated.

JUSTICE AT HOME

When it came to justice at home, Barack Obama fundamentally sought to abrogate religious freedom in America and he weaponized the Internal Revenue Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Attorney Gen.’s office and the Justice Department against America’s own citizens. It was and is the epitome of tyranny.

President Obama turned the criminal justice system upside down. He commuted the sentences of 774 federal inmates which is more than the previous 11 presidents combined. He issued 590 commutations in the year 2016 alone, which is the highest in U.S. history according to his own White House. Mr. Obama pardoned a total of 148 people during his presidency and has shortened the sentences of 1,176 people, including 395 serving life sentences.

Yet during his presidency, in Mr. Obama’s hometown of Chicago alone, a city where his policies on gun control are the strictest in the nation, there were nearly 800 murders this year alone which is the highest in history.

It was also Mr. Obama’s administration that told us that mud puddles are navigable waters, that a tax is not a tax, that an exchange created by the federal government is an exchange created by a state, and that bureaucrats had more rights than parents to decide their child’s education and that adult male transvestites had the moral and legal right to go into the bathroom with little schoolgirls whether their parents liked it or not.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Mr. Obama unconstitutionally ignored and selectively applied America’s immigration laws perhaps because he saw those coming across the border into this country illegally, not as illegal immigrants, but as unregistered democrats.

President Obama never gained control of the border and in fact, Mr. Obama unconstitutionally ignored and selectively applied America’s immigration laws and illegally suspended immigration enforcement. He released 19,723 criminal illegal immigrants from prison into nearly every state of the Union. These nearly 20,000 criminal illegal aliens were collectively convicted of over 60,000 crimes, including over 12,000 drunk driving convictions and over 8,000 violent crimes such as assault, rape, and murder. Mr. Obama’s actions endangered Americans and denied justice to the victims of their crimes. Mr. Obama bears a share of the responsibility for every crime that these criminals have committed or will commit against Americans since he released them from prison into American society.

TERRORISM

When President Obama took office in January 2009, Iraq was a relatively stable nation. Iran was contained and ISIS did not exist. Now there is chaos throughout the Middle East. Vladimir Putin’s Russia is in Syria, the Iranians have been unleashed, and ISIS has raped and butchered its way across Iraq declaring that there would be nothing for Christians but the sword and history will record that it was Barack Obama who willingly stood on the sidelines and knowingly let a genocide against Christians and Yezidis happen.

Barack Obama drew red lines he had no intention of enforcing, stood back and watched as Syria burned and Islamist radicals grew in strength until they exploded out of Syria to bring Hell on earth to the innocent men and women across the region. To date, the result is over 4 million refugees and over 400,000 people dead.

There are nine times more people killed in terrorist attacks today than there were in 2000. My colleagues and I earnestly warned President Obama and his administration of the dangers that Boko Haram and ISIS represented to innocent people in America and the world and pleaded with him to take actions to prevent them from desecrating the innocent. Mr. Obama casually dismissed our concerns related to both of those groups. His administration refused to call Boko Haram a terrorist organization and he dismissed ISIS as “Junior Varsity”. My colleagues and I then repeatedly pleaded with Mr. Obama for over a year to resolutely respond to this insidious, murderous, hellish evil. I personally asked the president in an open video message if he did not realize “that by ignoring this monstrous, ideological evil, that you allow it to grow, and you ultimately invite it to exercise its desecration of the innocent within the shores of our own nation.”

Yet, President Obama stood by casually, golf club in hand, and steadfastly refused ignored those entreaties. And terrorism did return to America and for the first time since 9/11, innocent Americans citizens were murdered by terrorists on American soil. Today Boko Haram and ISIS are responsible for 51 percent, of all terrorist fatalities in the world. Foreign intelligence agencies now estimate ISIS ranks are as large as 200,000 fighters from 90 countries. ISIS and its affiliates either control or hold influence in nearly 20 nations: Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, Algeria, Morocco, Mali, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Russia, Bosnia, Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Whether they manifested themselves as the Iranian mullahs, ISIS, Boko Haram, Hezbollah,

Hamas, or a dozen other names, Barack Obama refused to even call Global Jihadists by name and he fundamentally refused to marshal the resources of his presidency to bear on behalf of the thousands of helpless victims they slaughtered. It is a disgrace that leaves me without words to describe.

Mr. Obama released five of the most dangerous Taliban leaders along with other terrorists held in Guantanamo Bay including 182 violent prisoners who have been released from Guantanamo Bay, nearly 20 percent of whom returned to the battlefield to fight United States forces and interests the world over. Mr. Obama's "slap on the wrist" approach to national security needlessly added and continues to add to the dangers our men and women face in the fight against jihadist terrorism.

President Obama abandoned the Iranian freedom movement in 2009 when the citizens of Iran took to the streets to protest the rigged presidential election and to remove the Khamenei regime peacefully. He supported the release of the Lockerbie bomber. He supported Civilian trials for terrorists. Then due to those very procedural protections in civil court that prevented introduction of crucial evidence, that Mr. Obama had been specifically and repeatedly warned about in advance, the civilian trial for the evil terrorist Ahmed Ghailani led to his acquittal on more than 280 criminal charges of a man who openly admitted his terrorist activities. And Mr. Obama specifically chose not to prosecute the Muslim Brotherhood in the Holy Land Foundation trial when the evidence against them was absolutely overwhelming. One week after three Americans and our Ambassador were killed by Terrorists in Benghazi, Mr. Obama and his administration stood in front of flag draped coffins and lied to the American people about what really happened.

The average number of Innocents killed by terrorists before the Obama presidency was 3000 per year; now under Barack Obama it is thirty thousand per year. And the number of terrorists willing to blow themselves up to kill others is growing across the world. The chances of radical Islamists getting weapons of mass destruction are also growing.

IRAN

"President Obama's has been the leading apologist in the world for the Islamic Republic of Iran throughout his presidency. In his relentless quest for a nuclear deal with the Islamic regime of Iran, Mr. Obama simply chose to ignore the fact that Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

The notion that the only alternative to seeking a nuclear deal with the corrupt Khamenei regime is war is an illusion created by the Obama administration. Obama communicated directly to Tehran through secret back-channels his willingness to support Khamenei. The truth is that the oppressed majority of the Iranian people did not then, and do not today, support the Khamenei regime's nuclear program and in fact desperately want to be rid of this poisonous regime.

Mr. Obama, with the help of liberal Democrats in Congress and the embrace of the left, got his deal with Iran at all costs. The left embraced it. But did Iran open its doors to U.S. goods? No. The Ayatollah banned them. Did Iran renounce its support for terrorism? No. It renewed support for Hamas, sent troops to Syria and armed rebels in Yemen. Is Iran acting like a responsible regional power? No. In

blatant violation of U.N. sanctions, Iran is testing nuclear-capable missiles and firing rockets near U.S. ships. And when the U.S. threatened to respond to Iran's missile violations, did Iran back down? No. Iran's "moderate" president ordered his military to accelerate Iran's missile program. The Iranians believe Mr. Obama is a total pushover. Mr. Obama said he was promoting peace, but he really only projected weakness and the world's dictators took notice.

To pave the way for his insane nuclear agreement with Iran, Mr. Obama ordered the CIA to sever contacts with green movement supporters and even ended U.S. programs to document Iranian human rights abuses. It seems there was nothing the Mr. Obama was not willing to sacrifice upon the altar of the Iranian nuclear deal. To begin finalizing the Iran agreement, Mr. Obama brought in John Kerry and the same basic team which negotiated the nuclear deal with North Korea that paved the way for North Korea to gain the nuclear weapons they have today—North Korea, if you need to be reminded, is the same country which just this year conducted a nuclear test, an ICBM test, and a submarine launched ballistic missile test. From day one and the eight years that followed it has overwhelmed comprehension how divorced the Obama Administration has been from reality.

And Mr. Speaker, what exactly did the U.S. from the Iran Deal? A completely unverifiable and tacit agreement from Iran that it will not make a nuclear weapon in the next ten years. And that promise from the jihadist government of Iran was good enough for Barack Obama. And Mr. Speaker, what did Iran get out of the deal? The world's leading sponsor of terrorism received \$1.8 Billion in freed assets, a lifting of the arms embargoes in five years, the toothless U.N. ban on Iran missile development—which of course they are actively and continuously violating. And after eight years, Iran will [quote] "then be allowed to build an industrial-scale nuclear program, with hundreds of thousands of machines, after a ten year period of restraint." [end quote] In order to reach this agreement, Obama ordered the executive branch to cease categorizing Iranian human rights abuses, and now he has also illegally paid \$400 Million in ransom for American hostages abducted by the Iranian regime, he has ceded control of Iraq to Iran, he has ignored Iranian development of missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and—most significantly—he has ensured the Iranian regime may legally develop nuclear weapons in the coming decade.

After the nuclear deal, Iran became only more arrogant and bold. They seized two American naval vessels, took ten sailors hostage, and only released them after the Administration apologized. An Iranian general said the seizure of our ships was a warning to Congress against imposing new sanctions for Iran's illegal nuclear missile tests. Iran's intent and track record is crystal clear to almost everyone it seems, but to President Obama.

The hallmark of Barack Obama's presidency has been that of weakening, disarming, diminishing and apologizing for the United States of America. For years many of us watched in utter disbelief at the great lengths to which the Obama Administration has gone in order to secure a deal at any price with Iran on their nuclear weapons program. He has capitulated on every red line and minimum requirement

that both he and the United Nations had required. He has now squandered away every form of leverage we had against this theocratic radial regime which has broken every promise it has ever made to us. The jihadist leaders of Iran came to the table with nothing and walked away with everything. And now, instead of making sure they never get a nuclear weapon, Barack Obama's politically motivated, peace-in-our-time capitulation has strengthened Iran's ability to foment terrorism throughout the world as it has for the last 40 years. And, now, because of his delusional negotiation and acquiescence, this Islamic Republic of Iran, the number one sponsor of terrorism in the world, has become a nation on a path (cleared for them by President Barack Obama) to obtaining a nuclear weapons capability. Indeed, Mr. Obama's actions may place the finger of Jihad on the launch button of an entire nuclear arsenal; and America's children and future generations may thereafter be forced to live their lives in the shadow of nuclear terrorism.

CONSTITUTION

Perhaps Mr. Obama's biggest broken promise to all Americans was when he said, "I, Barack Hussein Obama, do solemnly swear that I will execute the office of President of the United States faithfully, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States. Whether we're talking about Obamacare, or Mr. Obama's administration weaponizing the IRS to target conservative groups, seizing the phone records of the Associated Press, suggesting that Fox News reporter James Rosen was a criminal without evidence as an excuse to monitor his phone and e-mail, appointing Czars with no accountability, appointing Assistant AG Thomas Perez who steadfastly refused to affirm 1st Amendment Rights, called the Constitution an "imperfect document" that "reflected the fundamental flaw of the country that continues to this day", the seizure of the press' phone records by the Justice Department, the walking of guns to cartels during Operation Fast and Furious, unconstitutional recess appointments, unconstitutional executive orders or the Administration's intentional selective enforcement of the laws—This President has shown complete and open contempt for the Constitution as a mere obstacle to his preferred 'pen and phone' method of governing through an executive autocracy.

When Barack Obama came into office only one of the 13 federal appeals courts had a majority of liberal Democrat appointed judges. Now, nine of the 13 appeals courts have liberal Democrat appointees. Barack Obama nominated to individuals to the Supreme Court who have no regard whatsoever for the plain meaning and original intent of the Constitution. The lawlessness of Obama's Progressive Utopia, was one governed by the Pen and the Phone rather than the People. If Hillary Clinton had been elected in November she would have almost certainly appointed At Least Three more Supreme Court Justices which would have completely abrogated the United States Constitution along with the first second fifth and 14th amendments and all of the others for generation or more. For the first time in its history, America would no longer have been governed by the United States Constitution as the supreme law of the land. There are simply no words to describe the existential threat to the American Republic that Hillary

Clinton would have inevitably represented if she had been elected president of the United States. Without the American Constitution there would have been no free America and without a free America there would have been no free world. The implications would have been beyond comprehension.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Barack Obama's record is that of having assaulted centuries of legal precedent and medical ethics, pushing forward his effort to roll back regulations that protect physicians' rights of conscience. Amazingly, the Obama administration accused the Catholic nuns Little Sisters of the Poor, an entirely voluntary and Catholic organization dedicated to hospice care for the indigent, of promoting a war on women . . . for not agreeing to offer birth control as a Catholic health benefit, and then threatened them with \$70 million a year in fines for not complying.

The Obama administration essentially argued before the Supreme Court that the religious ministerial exception that had been bedrock law since the Constitution was written did not actually exist and that neither the Free Exercise Clause nor the Establishment Clause has anything to say about a church's relationship with its own employees. In a 9–0 opinion, the Supreme Court unanimously rejected the Administration's position, stating that "imposing an unwanted minister, the state infringes the Free Exercise Clause, which protects a religious group's right to shape its own faith and mission through its appointments." Despite Barack Obama's supposed expertise on the Constitution, his administration has lost more 9–0 Supreme Court cases than any other Administration in history and no president in history ever posed more overt danger to religious freedom in America than Barack Obama.

Mr. Obama casually ignored the historical and constitutional fact that religious liberty involves much more than freedom of worship alone, and that the fundamental rights of free speech and the free exercise of religion do not stop at the exit door of the local house of worship, but instead, extends to every area of life. Mr. Obama refused respect the public component of religious liberty, and failed to accommodate religion in our generally applicable laws, and placed in grave danger, the religious freedom in the Constitution which undergirds everything that is America.

RACE RELATIONS

Barack Obama blatantly stoked racial tensions and in the process he painted a target on the backs of the noble men and women in blue who risk their lives every day to protect the innocent citizens of this country. Some people even went looking to assassinate police officers. And the result was that innocent Americans within both law enforcement and the minority community died across America for no reason. Barack Obama had an historic opportunity to unite America in a profound way. Instead, he chose for temporary political gain to become the divider and chief by seeking to divide America by race and class.

MR. OBAMA'S CONDESCENSION TOWARD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Barack Obama consistently subjected Americans to condescending lectures. Because he was a Progressive Politician who had attended the right schools held the right internships, and had the right credentials he knew what was best for us far better than we did that

he was morally empowered to properly order the minutiae of the lives of all of the American people.

If we opposed Obamacare we didn't want people to have health insurance.

If we opposed wasteful stimulus spending, we hated school teachers and firemen.

If we opposed the nuclear deal with Iran, we were compared to terrorist sponsoring Iranian Mullahs.

If we believe in God and exercise our Second Amendment Right, we were bitter.

If we didn't believe in open, unsecured borders and vetting those who come into this country, we were un-American.

And if we believed unborn baby girls should be protected under the law, we were waging a war on women.

And Mr. Obama was also fond of using politically correct euphemisms and constantly use them to distort nearly every issue:

(1) Evacuation of our Embassy in Yemen was "a reduction in staff"

(2) Terror attacks are "man-caused disasters"

(3) Global war on terror is an "overseas contingency operation"

(4) An Islamic terrorist murdering 13 American soldiers is "workplace violence"

(5) Terrorists beheading children, crucifying women, and burning men alive in the name of Islam are "individuals from various religions" who practice "hateful ideologies"

(6) Veterans, pro-life groups, and state rights' advocates were listed as "at-risk" to become domestic terrorists

OBAMA CARE

Mr. Obama's signature policy achievement was the so-called Affordable Care Act. As we have learned year after year, essentially nothing Mr. Obama said about the Affordable Care Act was true. He told us his mother's health insurance denied her paying for her cancer treatments—but it was a blatant falsehood. He told America—many, many times—that if we liked our plan and our doctor, we could keep our plan and our doctor—but it was a blatant falsehood. In fact, Mr. Obama's speech writers joked about deliberately putting that blatant falsehood over on Charlie Rose, who, like many in the media, never pressed the issue.

Mr. Obama even deceived and betrayed Bart Stupak from his own party and used a myriad of special political handouts like the Cornhusker Kickback and the Louisiana Purchase to scrape together the support to shove a giant government takeover of the healthcare industry down the American people's throats and then raided the coffers of Medicare to the tune of over \$700 billion to help pay for it.

Anyone with a basic understanding of economics warned was going to wreak havoc upon the insurance market. Barack Obama said, "Obamacare means more choice, more competition, lower costs." But now under Mr. Obama's presidency, the Cost of Average Family Health Insurance Plan has gone from \$12,680 to over \$25,000. Barack Obama said the ACA will cost around \$900 billion over 10 years; in reality it is at least \$2 trillion or more. Mr. Obama said that it would lower health insurance premiums by \$2,500 per family. In 42 states, many premiums increased by over 100 percent. Mr. Obama said, "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor" That was a blatant falsehood. Mr. Obama said, "I will protect Medicare." That was a blatant falsehood. He robbed Medicare to pay for Obama care.

He said, "Obama care will cover every American." That was a blatant falsehood. Millions remain uninsured. Healthcare costs have never been higher and the entire debacle called Obamacare is now catastrophically collapsing before our very eyes.

FOREIGN-POLICY

From day one Barack Obama considered the Cold War a giant misunderstanding. He did his famous reset with Russia and then turned and caved into everything they wanted. Mr. Obama cancelled the missile defense site and betrayed the Czech Republic and Poland to placate Russia. He told Russian President Medvedev he would be more flexible after his re-election on missile defense.

Barack Obama lifted sanctions on the communist dictatorship of Cuba and the Islamist dictatorship of Iran. He has held our allies and the enemies of human freedom to different standards, restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba and making economic concessions to their government with no reciprocity on human rights. President Obama praised the murderous dictator when he offered condolences after Castro's death. For decades, Democrats and Republicans alike maintained consistent policies. At the end of the Obama administration, the only countries in the world that we have better relations with under Barack Obama are Iran and Cuba—and even that has been entirely on their terms. The Saudis are so furious with Obama's surrender to Iran that they are threatening to develop their own nuclear weapons.

Mr. Obama's policies of weakness and appeasement yielded Crimea, the South China Sea, the rise of the Islamic State, the return of Iran, and the unspeakable desecration of the innocent in Aleppo.

Mr. Obama said we were exercising leadership in Syria. But under his "leadership," he drew a red line and then ran from it. Iran and Russia are now taking the lead in Syria. While he talks about leadership, his lack of action contributed to 400,000 human beings dead and generated 4 million migrants who are now destabilizing Europe.

The commentary of Jared Hatch of the Young Leaders Program at the Heritage Foundation said it this way:

"Contemplating the extermination of Aleppo and its people, I was reminded of a sentence that I read this summer. It appeared in an encomium to Elie Wiesel shortly after his death. It was a sterling sentence. It declared: "We must never be bystanders to injustice or indifferent to suffering." That was Wiesel's teaching, exactly. The problem with the sentence is that it was issued by the White House and attributed to President Obama. And so the sentence was not at all sterling. It was outrageously hypocritical.

How dare Obama, and members of his administration, speak this way? After five years and more in which the United States' inaction in Syria has transformed our country into nothing other than a bystander to the greatest atrocity of our time, they have forfeited the right to this language. Their angry and anguished utterances are merely the manipulation of the rhetoric of conscience on behalf of a policy without a trace of conscience. You cannot be cold-hearted and high-minded at the same time. Historians will record—they will not have to dig deeply or interpret wildly to conclude—that all through the excruciations of Aleppo, and more generally of Syria, the

United States watched. As we watched, we made excuses, and occasionally we ornamented our excuses with eloquence. The president is enamored of his eloquence. But eloquence is precisely what the wrenching circumstances do not require of him. In circumstances of moral (and strategic) emergency, his responsibility is not to move us. It is to pick up the phone. “Elie did more than just bear witness,” Obama said in his eulogy, “he acted.” And he added: “Just imagine the peace and justice that would be possible in our world if more people lived a little more like Elie Wiesel.” Just imagine.

If Obama wants credit for not getting us into another war, the credit is his. If he wants credit for not being guilty of “overreach,” the credit is his. If he wants credit for conceiving of every obstacle and impediment to American action in every corner of the globe, the credit is his. But it is a shameful and incontrovertible fact of our history that during the past eight years the values of rescue, assistance, protection, humanitarianism and democracy have been demoted in our foreign policy and in many instances banished altogether. The ruins of the finest traditions of American internationalism, of American leadership in a darkening world, may be found in the ruins of Aleppo. Our ostentatious passivity is a primary cause of that darkening. When they go low, we go home. The Obama legacy in foreign policy is vacuum-creation, which his addled America-First successor will happily ratify. Aleppo was not destroyed by the Syrian army. It was destroyed by a savage coalition led and protected by Russia. While they massacred innocent men, women and children, we anxiously pondered scenarios of “deconfliction.”

We need to be unforgivingly clear. The obligation to act against evil in Aleppo was no different from the obligation to act against the evil in Sarajevo and Srebrenica. (Has anyone ever heard Mr. Obama mention Bosnia?) It was no different from the obligation to act against the evil in Rwanda. It was no different from the obligation to act against the evil in Auschwitz. And we scorned the obligation. We learned nothing. We forgot everything. We failed. We did not even try.

No, that is not quite right. It would be incorrect to analyze our delinquency in Syria in the dichotomously simple terms of action and inaction. The administration creatively pioneered a third option, which it pursued not only in Syria but also in Ukraine and elsewhere: Between action and inaction, it chose inconsequential action. There is the Obama doctrine! We backed moderate Syrian rebels, but not as seriously or as generously as the immoderate Syrian rebels were backed. We sent in small numbers of special operators. The CIA ran a few programs. We acted, in sum, only in ways certain not to affect the outcome. We were strategically feckless. I suspect that the president believes that the United States has no moral right to affect an outcome in another country. I suspect that he regards such decisive action as imperialism, or at least as Iraq-like. What this means in practice is that we will not help people who deserve our help. In the spirit of respecting other societies, we will idly gaze at their destruction. How would disrespecting them be worse?

As a direct or indirect consequence of our refusal to respond forcefully to the Syrian crisis, we have beheld secular tyranny, religious tyranny, genocide, chemical warfare, barrel

bombs and cluster bombs, the torture and murder of children, the displacement of 11 million people, the destabilization of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, the ascendancy of Iran in the region, the emergence of Russia as a global power, the diminishment of the American position in the world, the refugee crisis in Europe, the resurgence of fascism in Europe and a significant new threat to the security of the United States. It is amazing how much doing nothing can do, especially when it is we who do nothing.

Not long after he mourned Wiesel, the president engaged in another one of his exercises in empathy without consequence. At the U.N. Summit for Refugees and Migrants, he spoke of Alan Kurdi, the Syrian boy who washed up dead on a beach in Turkey. “That little boy on the beach could be our son or our grandson,” the president moistly said. “We cannot avert our eyes or turn our backs.” And then we proceeded to avert our eyes and turn our backs. The people who had the power to prevent, stop or even mitigate this catastrophe should now bow their heads and fall silent and reflect on how it is that they brought us so low. Aleppo is no more, and we are weakened and disgraced.

Mr. Speaker, it is ironic and tragic that the fall of Aleppo comes as Barack Obama is to leave office. Because it is one of the clearest demonstrations of how his cowardly foreign and domestic policies have consistently left tens of thousands of innocent helpless victims dead in his wake.

When Islamic terrorists bombed Brussels, killing and injuring hundreds of people, including Americans, President Obama was eating cracker jacks at a baseball game rubbing elbows with a communist dictator.

When the Benghazi tragedy occurred in the middle of a presidential election, and three Americans and our ambassador were murdered by terrorists the Obama Administration’s spin-masters told us it was because of a YouTube video. It was a dark and deliberate lie to the American people in front of flag-draped coffins and was an egregious example of the Obama Administration’s astonishing lack of accountability and transparency.

At a time when noble Americans were fighting and dying in the sands of Iraq to secure a lasting peace and bring stability to the region, Senator Obama vigorously opposed the Surge in Iraq and said [quote] “I am not persuaded that 20,000 additional troops in Iraq is going to solve the sectarian violence there, in fact I think it will do the reverse . . . I am going to actively oppose the president’s proposal.” [end quote]. In spite of the opposition to the Surge from Senator Obama, Senator Reid, and many other partisan Democrats notwithstanding, General Petraeus and our unbelievably courageous men and women in uniform were able to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat—decimating Al-Qaeda in Iraq, halting sectarian violence, and achieving a sustainable peace. As thanks for this historic military feat, the Left in America called him “General Betray Us,” and Senator Hillary Clinton said his reports to the Senate by General Petraeus required the “willing suspension of disbelief.”

This was a despicable display of hyper-partisanship on the part of Mr. Obama and the Democrats who refused to accept American victory in Iraq. But then of course, the Obama Administration would go on to claim the peace

in Iraq as one of their foreign policy achievements.

Then in spite of the prescient advice President Bush gave on July 12, 2007 and the warnings of countless generals, Obama ignored his commanders and precipitously withdrew our troops from Iraq. Even as we withdrew our troops, Vice President BIDEN said of Iraq [quote] “I think it’s going to be one of the great achievements of this Administration. You’re going to see 90,000 troops come marching home by the end of the summer, you’re going to see a stable government in Iraq that is moving towards a representative government . . .” [end quote]

is precisely because of President Obama’s petulant decision to keep his politically motivated campaign promise to remove all our troops from Iraq that the Islamic State was able to form, spread across the region, and bring about a brutal reign of evil the likes of which the world has not seen since the Mongols rampaged across Asia.

Right after the Islamic state entered Iraq, many of us in Congress wrote a letter to Mr. Obama beseeching him to understand the danger of this terrorist organization and imploring him to respond while there was time. Astoundingly, Mr. Obama labeled the Islamic state a junior varsity team and his administration stood by with the collective golf club in their hand while ISIS raped and murdered and beheaded its way across Iraq, selling six-year-old girls into slavery and burning people alive. The Islamic State now keeps an estimated 3,000 young girls and women in sexual slavery, and they are being beaten and raped day after day. It is mind-numbingly horrific to know what these innocent girls are going through every day while Mr. Obama runs out the clock on his term of office and hands the fight against ISIS off to the next president. Under Mr. Obama’s administration the murder of innocent people by terrorists increased almost tenfold. Then when President Obama drew his famous red line in Syria, Bashir Assad had been paying attention and he knew he could simply ignore this red line in the sand for what it was. And he proceeded to do just that and he remains in power to this day slaughtering the moderate rebels and the Kurds fighting ISIS.

In response to the onslaught of ISIS, President Obama launched one of the most anemic and pathetic air campaigns in modern history and ISIS grew to somewhere around 40,000 fighters under President Obama’s watch. He enabled ISIS to grow and metastasize, attract and radicalize countless young men from the West who will attempt to return home and unleash their virulent brand of Islam upon innocent Europeans and Americans as we have so tragically seen in France, Brussels, and even in the United States. During the so-called Arab Spring the Obama administration sided with the Muslim brotherhood in Egypt.

Barack Obama mocked Mitt Romney during their second presidential debate, saying “The 1980s are now calling to ask for their foreign policy back.” Mr. Speaker—would to God that we could get the foreign policy from the 1980s back! For eight years Barack Obama ignored the fact that Vladimir Putin is a KGB killer intent on restoring Russia to its Soviet-era in prayer for error. And it has been an absolute national embarrassment to watch this Russian thug unceremoniously mop the floor and the map of the world with the President of the United States.

In his first year of office, and on the very day of the 70th anniversary of Soviet Invasion Day in Poland, President Obama betrayed our European allies. The Czechs and the Poles had risked the survival of their governments by agreeing to implement a missile-shield in their countries that could have significantly devalued Iran's entire nuclear missile pursuits and even one day may have protected America from the Iranian nuclear missiles. But to placate a revanchist Russia Barack Obama blatantly betrayed both the Czechs and the Poles and unilaterally withdrew from the plan.

Under Barack Obama, U.S. agreements with our understandably nervous friends in Eastern Europe were not worth the paper they were printed on. Ukraine gave up its nuclear weapons with the written assurance from Russia and the United States of America that its national sovereignty would be protected. Then, in response to the unconscionable Russian invasion of Ukraine and seizure of the Crimean Peninsula, the Obama Administration would not even provide lethal armaments to the Ukrainians. Instead he offered MREs. Then Mr. Obama evidently did not deem that humiliation complete until he had turned to the Russians to assist with Syria. The complete and total lack of leadership from the Obama White House once again came full circle.

Ben Rhoades made an attempt to analyze the mindset of Barack Obama. He said, [quote] "He is smarter than everyone and more than willing to actively lie and obfuscate to the American people and media to effect his desired outcomes, despite, or in spite of, the will of the American people, the law, and even common sense."

OUR ALLY ISRAEL

Barack Obama pledged [quote] "unshakeable commitment" [unquote] to Israel's security. Mr. Obama stood before a group of thousands of supporters of Israel and proclaimed that "when the chips are down, I have Israel's back."

But then as President, he blatantly refused even to acknowledge Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Then Mr. Obama consistently expressed more open rebuke toward Israel for building houses in its capital city than he expressed for Iran's efforts to build nuclear weapons with which to existentially threaten the state of Israel along with the peace and security of the entire human family.

Mr. Obama all but ignored Iran's call for Israel to be wiped off the map. He supported the unification of Fatah and Hamas. He pressured Israel to release over 100 murderers, rapists, and terrorists. He suggested that Israel return to 1967 border lines which would have made national security for the tiny nation of Israel almost impossible.

Benjamin Netanyahu came to Congress and said "obviously we are going to have to continue to prepare to defend ourselves by ourselves."

On December 23, 2016, two days before Christmas and one day before the start of Hanukkah, in the waning days of his administration, in the safety of a lame-duck presidency, President Obama and Secretary Kerry broke with over 20 years of bipartisan precedent and betrayed America's best friend in the world when he orchestrated and then refused to veto a United Nations Security Council resolution that undermined Israel's very right to exist.

Under the manifestation of this resolution, Jewish citizens of Israel could not legally step

foot into the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem (where they have resided for thousands of years) and they could not even stand in front of the Western Wall, the holiest site of Judaism. In accepting the factually and morally incorrect label of "occupied" proclaimed in this resolution, President Obama and Secretary Kerry have reinforced the position of the plethora of anti-Semites at the U.N.

This anti-Semitic resolution fueled and lent legitimacy to the ongoing murderous hatred of Jews, which manifested itself once again two weeks later when an ISIS-inspired murderer rammed his truck into a group of 16 Jews who Obama helped label "occupiers" by his abstention.

In an all-too-familiar scene, thousands of people poured into the streets in Gaza to celebrate the murder of Jews. Amidst the celebrations, candy was passed out and Fathi Hamad, the leader of the Hamas, issued the following statement: "The message of our Islamic party Hamas is a message of encouragement and support for every jihadi who carries out an attack that puts an end to the acts of the Zionist enemy."

Despite lending credence to the *casus belli* of the ISIS-inspired attack, the President has yet to comment on this despicable act of terrorism.

When the Security Council Quartet meets on January 15 and the full UNSC meets on January 17, I am gravely concerned that Barack Obama will overturn U.S. precedent going back to Lyndon Johnson and use the opportunity to stab Israel in the back one final time by allowing the anti-Semites at the UN to redraw the map to Israel's indefensible pre-1967 borders—leaving the world's only Jewish state less than 9 miles wide.

Up until Barack Obama became President, America protected the State of Israel against the anti-Semitic mob we call the United Nations. The only thing United about the United Nations has been their consistent opposition to America and the state of Israel.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Speaker. Orchestrating and then failing to veto this resolution that undermined Israel's right to exist was a cowardly act of political treachery by Barack Obama that has disgraced the United States of America and it will send Barack Obama's name down the corridor of history as an overt traitor to Nation of Israel.

It is an absolute disgrace that this President has been willing to sacrifice the security and stability of this vital ally and our greatest friend in the world, upon the altar of perceived international civility. It is a betrayal that history will never forget.

INNOCENT VICTIMS

Perhaps the singularly saddest tragedy the Barack Obama leaves behind are all of the innocent victims that needed his help so desperately and for whom now that help is forever too late. Mr. Obama's Administration consistently and unconsciously implemented policies across the board that negatively impacted the most vulnerable in human society.

The Obama administration loosened restrictions on regimes using child soldiers. The Obama administration officials repeatedly ignored Chinese human rights abuses during trips to China.

FBI statistics indicate that hate crimes against the Jewish population are up, but Mr. Obama was silent about that. There was and is genocide against Christians taking place in

the Middle East, but he was also silent about that.

He stood by and let ISIS, Boko Haram, Russia, Syria and Planned Parenthood brutally desecrate the innocent.

ABORTION

Only three days after he took office, on January 23, 2009, President Obama overturned America's long-standing policy, which prohibited taxpayer dollars from being used to fund the killing of unborn children by abortion overseas. In a time of economic crisis, President Obama proceeded to give millions of U.S. Taxpayer dollars to abortion providers in foreign countries.

Pastor Rick Warren asked candidate Obama, "Forty million abortions, at what point does a baby get human rights, in your view?" Mr. Obama's response was, "Well, you know, I think that whether you're looking at it from a theological perspective or a scientific perspective, answering that question with specificity, you know, is above my pay grade."

President Barack Obama had one of the greatest opportunities ever afforded to any president to take his place among history's most respected heads of state by defending the rights of the defenseless which is the ultimate measure of every true statesman.

Not only did he fail that opportunity, lie went to great effort to proactively promote the indiscriminate killing of the most defenseless of all human beings. Barack Obama worked diligently to expand abortion on demand in America and throughout the earth. He relentlessly worked against taxpayer's wishes to give billions of taxpayer dollars to Planned Parenthood, the largest promoter and perpetrator of abortion on demand on Earth.

Throughout his presidency, Mr. Obama surrounded himself with some of the most radical pro-abortion officials in public office, including Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, who supports Partial Birth Abortions, and White House Science Advisor John Holdren, who has written openly about his support of radical policies like forced abortions and forced sterilization.

In August 2010, authorities entered the clinic of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, and found a torture chamber for little babies that defies description within the constraints of the English-language.

According to the Grand Jury report: quote "Dr. Kermit Gosnell had a simple solution for unwanted babies: he killed them. He didn't call it that. He called it 'ensuring fetal demise.' The way he ensured fetal demise was by sticking scissors in the back of the baby's neck and cutting the spinal cord. He called it 'snipping.' Over the years there were hundreds of 'snippings'.

Mr. Speaker, these were born alive children murdered by having their spines snipped with scissors without anesthetic.

Ashley Baldwin, one of Dr. Gosnell's employees, said she saw babies breathing and she described one as two feet long that no longer had eyes or a mouth, but, in her words, was like making this "screeching" noise . . . and it "sounded like a little alien."

For God's sake Mr. Speaker, is that who we truly are?

As President of the United States of America at the time, Barack Obama did not utter one syllable against these gut wrenching atrocities of Kermit Gosnell or Planned Parenthood. He lectured this country on almost everything and yet he was shamefully silent in

the face of this insidious and horrifying genocide against these helpless little born alive human children.

When he was in the state legislature, Mr. Obama actually voted no four times on a bill that would have protected crying, kicking, breathing babies after they were born alive.

Mr. Obama, also consistently supported the policy that allowed more than 18,000 late-term, pain capable unborn babies were torturously killed without anesthesia in America in just the last year. Many of them cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid going over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

In his position, President Barack Obama could have easily and successfully enacted policies that would have saved the vast majority of the little babies like the ones Dr. Kermit Gosnell killed, yet all of his adult life he has actively and vigorously supported policies that not only allowed but were the direct result of them being killed.

In 2015, the Center for Medical Progress released numerous video recordings that incontrovertibly documented corporate officers and employees of Planned Parenthood casually discussing the harvesting and sale of the little body parts of countless little babies among the hundreds of thousands of innocent babies they are killing in many of the hundreds of existing abortion clinics owned by Planned Parenthood across this nation. It was a revelation so ugly and evil that it still casts an indelible stain of shame on all of us as Americans. Yet, Barack Obama arrogantly and heartlessly did all that was necessary to force American taxpayers to continue to fund this organization of human butchery called Planned Parenthood.

In the U.S. Senate, Mr. Obama voted no on a bill that would have prohibited someone from taking a minor child out of state for an abortion without at least notifying the child's parents. He voted no on a bill that would have allowed unborn babies in low income households to be included for health insurance coverage.

As President he appointed an Empire of radically pro-abortion judges and government bureaucrats. He vowed to veto The Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act which would prohibit discriminating against an unborn baby girl by subjecting her to abortion simply because she is a little girl instead of a little boy.

He promised to veto the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act after its historic passage in the United States House of Representatives. This is a bill that would protect both mothers and their little pain capable unborn babies between the beginning of their sixth month of pregnancy and live birth from the unspeakable cruelty of Planned Parenthood and evil monsters like Kermit Gosnell.

The House of Representatives later passed The Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This was a humane and reasonable bill that in the name of humanity would simply protect those babies who had survived the process of abortion and were born alive. born alive, Mr. Speaker. Yet astonishingly, Barack Obama, the President of the United States and the leader of the free world wrote a letter to Congress and said he would veto this bill to protect these born alive babies if it ever reached his desk. I can only say Mr. Speaker, that there is a moment in the life of every policymaker when he or she makes a decision either to protect the innocent or to embrace the

Cimmerian darkness where the light of human compassion has gone out and the survival of the fittest has prevailed over humanity. President Barack Obama failed that moment.

President Barack Obama's record is crystal clear. For his entire his political life, Mr. Obama has strongly supported the full legalization of abortion on demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy for any reason or no reason whatsoever including sex selection throughout all nine months of pregnancy and he supported forcing American taxpayers to pay for it whether the taxpayers liked it or not. Under President Barack Obama, nearly 9 million innocent, defenseless little American babies were aborted before they saw the first smile of their mother.

So ironically, Mr. Speaker, President Obama once spoke very noble and poignant words that, whether he realized it or not, apply so profoundly to this subject. Mr. Speaker, let me quote excerpted portions of his comments:

Mr. Obama once said, "This is our first task—caring for our children. It's our first job. If we don't get that right, we don't get anything right. That's how, as a society, we will be judged."

He asked, "Are we really prepared to say that we're powerless in the face of such carnage, that the politics are too hard? Are we prepared to say that such violence visited on our children year after year after year is somehow the price of our freedom?"

He also said "Our journey is not complete until all our children . . ." are "cared for and cherished and always safe from harm."

"That is our generation's task" he said, "to make these words, these rights, these values of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness real for every American."

Mr. Speaker, never have I so deeply agreed with any words ever spoken by President Obama as those I have just quoted. How I wish he could somehow open his heart and his ears to his own words, and ask himself in the core of his own soul, why these words that should apply to ALL children, cannot include the most helpless and vulnerable of all children?

Are there any children more vulnerable than little pain capable babies are before they are even born? Could we not at least agree we should all come together protect them when they are between the beginning of the sixth month of pregnancy and birth when we know that the thousands upon thousands of babies Planned Parenthood kills at this age feel agonizing pain in the process of being murdered? Could we not agree that little human babies who survive abortion and are born alive should be protected? Could the President not have agreed to that much, Mr. Speaker?

Ironically, Barack Obama was in the unique position, perhaps among all other presidents in history, to bring this country together to protect these helpless little babies. Yet as the most powerful human being in the world, Mr. Obama chose to become the most powerful enemy of the most helpless human beings in the world. Nothing will stain his legacy or his claims of looking out for the little guy with more shame than going down in history as the "Abortion President".

Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. Obama will hold to the standard line and cloak it all in the name of freedom of choice as he is done throughout his political life, but I wish he could just ask himself, what is so liberating about dis-

membering living, helpless little human babies?

Mr. Speaker, I once prayed and hoped that Barack Obama would take a different road than he did when it came to protecting innocent humanity. Just before he first took office eight years ago, I wrote the President of the United States an open letter on this very issue of protecting the innocent unborn child that was published in Human Events Magazine the very day he raised his hand to take the oath of office, swearing before God that he would preserve and protect the Constitution of the United States. Several days later in the White House I personally handed Mr. Obama that original letter which he promised to read.

In that letter I wished him well, hoping that he would use his unique and historic opportunity to bring together Americans in their common humanity to a moment of renewed commitment to recognize and protect every member of the human family including the innocent unborn child.

The letter is as follows:

Dear President Barack Obama,

History and the human family find themselves at a crossroads as you take the oath of office to become the 44th President of the United States. I am told you are the first to request to be sworn in with your hand on the same Bible used by Abraham Lincoln when he took the same oath.

In the days, years, and generations to come, many voices will speak to the profound symbolism of this gesture on your part. History will also record whether or not you honored those noble principles held in the heart of Abraham Lincoln; that all of God's children have the right to live, and be free, and to pursue their dreams.

This is one Republican with the sincerest prayer that history will confirm that you did.

May I submit that the surest hope of such a confirmation is for you and the Nation to remember why we built that grand white granite memorial along the Potomac to Mr. Lincoln, and why we revere him so deeply.

We honor Abraham Lincoln most because he found within himself the humanity and courage to transcend the politics and convention of his day, to recognize the child of God in a slave, which both the tide of public opinion and the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision had declared to be a nonperson, and unprotectable by law.

History found Abraham Lincoln a faithful steward of the hope, human dignity, and deliverance of those who bore the image of God in the shame of slavery; and now it waits to witness President Barack Obama's stewardship of the hope, human dignity, and deliverance of those who bear the image of God in unborn silence.

Yes, it is true, Mr. President, that no issue since slavery has divided Democrats and Republicans so deeply as abortion. Yet, the two issues are so profoundly similar. In both cases, the innocent victims were arbitrarily dehumanized in the name of freedom. And yes, it will be easy for you to listen to the voices of those who still today, in the name of freedom, would deprive the innocent of both life and liberty. Certainly, their familiar phrases prevailed for a time in the days of slavery.

However, is it possible that in hindsight, and with the weight of history on your shoulders, that you might find the courage to reject this insidious deception that has crushed so many

lives across history, and that relentlessly pursues this nation still?

Mr. Lincoln did. He said, "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not themselves, and under a just God, cannot long retain it." That is why we love him, and built our memorial to him.

So, as you lay your hand upon his Bible, Mr. President, may I adjure you to listen, in the stillness of your own heart, to the faint cries for mercy from those little souls who now look to you for hope; and to the words printed in red on the pages beneath your hand which will be declared again in eternity's final day;

"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."

Mr. Speaker, I truly and sincerely wished God's best for Barack Obama when he took office, just as I do now. And it gives me no pleasure to lay out what I believe to be the profound failures of Mr. Obama's presidency. However, in a Republic like ours where the people are the final arbiters of our public policy, and where those who would subvert this Republic consistently resort to deception and historical revisionism, an accurate record is vital to our nation's survival and its future generations.

So, alas Mr. Speaker, I am afraid President Obama tragically wasted his precious and historic opportunity. However, this is the true record of President Barack Obama, and to paraphrase William Wilberforce, "We may choose to look the other way but we can never say again that we did not know."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

MR. NADLER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of funeral in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

MR. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

149. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to Congress titled "Failure of Contractors, Participating Under the Department of Defense Test Program for a Comprehensive Subcontracting Plan, to Meet Their Negotiated Goals", pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 637 note; Public Law 114-92, Sec. 872(d)(2); (129 Stat. 939); to the Committee on Armed Services.

150. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of Defense Personnel Security Program Regulation [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0121] (RIN: 0790-AJ55) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

151. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Receivingships for Uninsured National Banks [Docket ID: OCC-2016-0017] (RIN: 1557-AE07) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

152. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Occupational Exposure to Beryllium [Docket No.: OSHA-H005C-2006-0870] (RIN: 1218-AB76) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

153. A letter from the Director, Division of Regulation, Legislation, and Interpretation, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Updating Regulations Issued Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Service Contract Act, Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, Employee Polygraph Protection Act, and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (RIN: 1235-AA17) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

154. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2016 Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 300ff-13(e); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVI, Sec. 2603 (as amended by Public Law 109-415, Sec. 104(e)); (120 Stat. 2776) and 42 U.S.C. 300ff-29a(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVI, Sec. 2620 (as amended by Public Law 109-415, Sec. 205(2)); (120 Stat. 2798); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

155. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2014-2015 Scientific and Clinical Status of Organ Transplantation Report to Congress, pursuant to Sec. 376 of the Public Health Service Act, as codified in 42 U.S.C. 274d; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

156. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Poison Help Campaign Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2015, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 300d-72(c)(2), as amended by the Poison Center Network Act, Public Law 113-77; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

157. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the "2014-2015 Report to Congress on Organ Donation and the Recovery, Preservation, and Transportation of Organs", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 274f-4, added by Public Law 108-216, the Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

158. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emer-

gency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

159. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

160. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Burma: Amendment of the Export Administration Regulations Consistent with an Executive Order that Terminated U.S. Government's Sanctions [Docket No.: 161005929-6929-01] (RIN: 0694-AH18) received January 10, 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

161. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination authorizing assistance to Syria, pursuant to Sec. 451 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended; ; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

162. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTG 16-111, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

163. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Interagency Working Group on U.S. Government-Sponsored International Exchanges and Training FY 2016 Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 87-256, Sec. 112(f) and (g), as amended, and 22 U.S.C. 2460(f) and (g); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

164. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Annual Financial Report for the U.S. Office of Government Ethics for FY 2016, as submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

165. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a semi-annual report to Congress concerning the compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the Act's freedom of emigration provisions, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(b); Public Law 93-618, Sec. 402(b); (88 Stat. 2056) and 19 U.S.C. 2439(b); Public Law 93-618, Sec. 409(b); (88 Stat. 2064); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

166. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Report to Congress titled "Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014 Strategic Plan for Assessing Race and Ethnicity Data", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395lll note; Public Law 113-185, Sec. 2(d)(3); (128 Stat. 1968); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following