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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 14, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Crying, vomiting, and 8 months pregnant, the young woman walked for an hour in labor pains in search of an ambulance. She was 23 years old.

Her journey did not end with that. She finally got to a place where she found a taxi. She had to convince this taxi driver in the midst of confusion, desperation, lack of food, to take her—

12 hours in labor—to a place where she could deliver her baby.

That is the plight of almost 650,000 women in Pakistan, where the flood waters are monstrosities that you would not imagine.

In visiting Pakistan over the last 10 days with the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, I could see water as far as the eye could see. The devastation is overwhelming: 33 million people displaced, more than 600,000 homeless, but more than that, hungry.

I continue to thank the Biden administration for its initial support of the U.N. fund of \$30 million and the additional funding of \$20 million. After our briefing in Islamabad and working with the administration, the United States military joined in in delivering 300,000 tents.

To my colleagues, more is needed. I will be introducing legislation that reflects the delegation's work and, as well, their efforts; and that is, we need additional funding for these devastating conditions.

We have to realize, as I visited the people in Dadu, children are without schools, pregnant women are without medical care, and as I indicated, more and more women will be giving birth over the next 6 weeks. This can turn into a medical crisis.

The water is not moving, primarily because this water is without a place to drain. There are no drainage facilities, if you will, in that area. So we will also have water-borne diseases, like hepatitis, dengue fever, malaria.

The people of Pakistan need our help. The Pakistani Americans have risen to their call. So many in my Congressional district are providing and offering to help send medical care, if you will. Doctors are leaving various places in America to head in that direction. But it is very important for the United States Congress to go on record in recognizing the devastation that the people are facing every single day.

Would you imagine, even in the trials and tribulations that we have in the United States, that you have populations of people who are isolated by dirty water and that there are people who are living in the outlying areas with no shelter whatsoever. The people are hungry, the lack of food is rising. The pregnant women are fearful for the unbelievable challenges they have in giving birth.

Madam Speaker, I am calling upon Congress, as I introduce this legislation dealing with the devastation of the floods in Pakistan, to join me in supporting the legislation and, as well, recognizing the dire conditions that our friends in Pakistan are having.

Our final point is to be reminded that Pakistan has been a friend and has helped us in the evacuation of Afghan refugees; helped us in the war on terror, where they lost Pakistani military in the war on terror. And, of course, the huge and very engaging Pakistani diaspora, Pakistani Americans who are both respected and, of course, energized to be collaborative with their government here in the United States to try to save the lives of babies and children, women and men, people who are sick, who need kidney transplants, who can't get their medicine, it is imperative that we rise up to this occasion.

Let me thank the members of the Pakistan Caucus who joined us, Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. GREEN. We are grateful for all of our members who have been so energetic in advocating for strong Pakistan-U.S. relations.

I also recognize the USAID, the embassy staff, and of course, the President and Prime Minister, and other leaders of government who opened their doors in the midst of this crisis for us to be briefed and to see the ongoing devastation that is going on there.

Madam Speaker, I will come back to the floor again because I am in fear of the devastation of pregnant women being stranded in places around that region who cannot be reached.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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This 23-year-old traveled 12 hours, out of her mind, if you will, to get to a place.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me.

TRANSPARENCY IS NONNEGOTIABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the American people are rightfully concerned about the ambiguity of the Biden Administration's ongoing negotiations with Iran.

Are these negotiations being conducted in good faith? What concessions are being made? How would this deal impact America's standing within the international community and our ally, Israel?

These are precisely the questions that are being asked, and yet, the only response coming from the administration is the sound of crickets chirping. The same can be said for Congress.

The Biden administration has already expressed its intent to keep Congress in the dark about this potential nuclear deal. And according to new reporting, the Biden administration is trying to hide the facts on their ongoing negotiations with Iran until after the midterm elections to avoid scrutiny.

Here is the thing, Madam Speaker, the administration is already required to submit information to Congress pursuant to the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act or INARA.

INARA requires that the administration keep Congress fully and currently informed of any new or amended agreement with Iran. Those words couldn't be any clearer.

In 2015, many Members on the opposite side of the aisle voted for INARA, and yet, we have heard nothing but crickets from them about holding this administration accountable.

If INARA had not passed 7 years ago, Congress could have found itself completely blind to former President Obama's deal with Iran at the time.

Madam Speaker, 400 Members of the House, along with 98 senators voted to force President Obama to submit his deal to Congress for Congressional review. Given the profound silence as of late on these ongoing negotiations, are we to believe that good governance and effective oversight are no longer tenets of this body?

Madam Speaker, we cannot let accountability and transparency become relics of a bygone era. That is why I have introduced H. Res. 1266 alongside my colleague from South Carolina, Representative JOE WILSON.

This resolution of inquiry requests that President Biden turn over to the House copies of documents, memos, and other communications related to any initiative or negotiations regarding Iran's nuclear program.

It could also expose any side agreements—such as the episode of the Obama administration leaving cash on a tarmac in 2016—that are offered as part of negotiations with Iran.

Today, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs will be marking up my legislation, and the American people will find out who still supports increased transparency and oversight and who does not.

Congress must do its job and exercise its explicit oversight authorities to hold this administration accountable. If this body upheld its commitment to good governance and effective oversight 7 years ago, we should certainly do the same now. There is no excuse not to.

Congress should not be sitting back and kicking its feet up while there is work to be done.

LOWERING COSTS TO AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. My fellow colleagues, yesterday, I joined many of my House Democrats alongside Democratic President Biden as we celebrated the passage of this new law at the White House.

During the White House visit, I kept thinking of the millions of Americans this monumental law will help. I also kept thinking about the Texans and constituents across my district who will benefit significantly from the impact of this law. The Inflation Reduction Act will lower families' costs with savings ranging from healthcare to energy costs. But if we look closely, we see just how important and lifesaving this law is. This law lowers prescription drug prices, like insulin, which is critical, by finally giving Medicare the ability to negotiate prices of prescription drugs—not just simply accept what Big Pharma says but negotiate prices.

It also prevents greedy price hikes and caps out-of-pocket costs to \$2,000 to Medicare beneficiaries—capping out-of-pocket at \$2,000.

Madam Speaker, for residents like those in my district, Texas' 29th District, these savings can literally save lives.

My district is 77 percent Latino. Studies from the CDC show that Latinos are 70 percent more likely than white non-Hispanics to be diagnosed with diabetes, and they are 1.3 times more likely to die from diabetes complications. On top of this, about 11 percent of Texans have diabetes.

Shockingly, studies show that one in four diabetics in Texas have rationed their insulin to make ends meet. They are literally putting themselves at risk of death and more complications because of the price of insulin.

Let's just let that sink in, Madam Speaker. One in four diabetics ration a

lifesaving drug simply because the prices are high and because our country has higher prescription drug prices than any other developed country in the world.

This simply breaks my heart. It is tough to think about this because this issue also does hit very close to home. I know all too well people who have family members that are suffering from diabetes. I know their pain, and I know how it impacts their livelihoods and their pocketbooks.

My mother faced uphill battles with diabetes before passing away from complications due to diabetes.

□ 1015

Now, I am 1 of 10 children. Five of us are also affected by diabetes and are on insulin, and a brother is on dialysis. So, I know firsthand how important insulin is to one's health, and I can't fathom a country where people can't afford this lifesaving drug.

While more must be done for those diabetic patients not on Medicare, this law is a monumental, great step forward in making insulin accessible to all. But I promise to keep fighting for those who are not on Medicare, those who are not insured, and those who are too poor to get access to insulin.

The Inflation Reduction Act also reduces the cost of health insurance for millions by extending the Affordable Care Act subsidies for 3 more years. This will lock in lower healthcare prices that will save 13 million people across our country an average of \$800.

Now, \$800 may not sound like a lot to some people, but in my district and across America, hardworking families know the value of \$800. In my district, Madam Speaker, there are about 55,000 people who are enrolled in health insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act. That is about \$800 for these Texas families to use for school supplies, for food, for gas, and for other basic necessities.

So, the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act is a massive victory for the people in my district and districts across America.

This is what happens when we have strong leadership in the White House and when House Democrats work together, because they put people first.

Madam Speaker, it is all about putting people first.

CONNECTIVITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, my friend Mark Shlanta died at age 57. He had been a South Dakota telecommunications leader since 1998.

Earlier this year, my friend Greg Dean died at age 58. He had been a South Dakota telecommunications leader since 1999.

Earlier this year, my friend Rod Bowar died at age 60. He had been a