

I congratulate the teams, the coaches, and the schools. They certainly make Utah proud.

VACCINES ARE A GREAT INVENTION

(Ms. DEXTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, vaccines are one of mankind's greatest inventions.

In the last 50 years, the World Health Organization's global vaccine efforts have saved 154 million lives. Every single person alive today owes something to that progress.

Yet, last week RFK, Jr. and his panel of antiscience, cherry-picked cronies recommended ending the decades-long practice of immediately vaccinating all newborns against Hepatitis B.

This will lead to more disease, cancer, and preventable deaths. It will increase healthcare costs.

I am calling on acting CDC Director O'Neill to reject this recommendation and protect our children.

I continue to call on RFK, Jr. to resign. His time at HHS has been an embarrassment and has caused deep harm to our country.

To lead our Nation's health system, you must rely on facts and data, not conspiracy and ego.

I will continue to stand with the Democratic Doctors Caucus fighting against RFK, Jr.'s rejection of science and data.

CELEBRATING UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA BULLDOGS' SEC CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2025 Southeastern Conference Champions, my alma mater, the University of Georgia Bulldogs.

Last Saturday, the Dawgs beat the Alabama Crimson Tide in dominant fashion, with a final score of 28-7. The win marks UGA's 16th SEC championship victory and the first back-to-back SEC titles since the 1980s.

I congratulate all the talented young men who put their everything into the game, especially to the Ninth District's own, quarterback and SEC championship game MVP, Gunner Stockton from Rabun County.

I also recognize the other incredibly talented Dawgs from George's Ninth District who helped clinch yet another SEC title: Well done to the city of Buford's KJ Bolden and Suwanee's London Seymour.

I congratulate the entire University of Georgia football team and coaching staff led by the legendary head coach Kirby Smart.

Now let's bring home yet another national championship. Go Dawgs.

FREE IRAN

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. WEBER of Texas was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a free Iran and in solidarity with the women that are leading that fight. These women are asking for basic human dignity, the right to live without fear, to speak freely, and to make decisions about their own lives.

For too long they have been silenced, imprisoned, and even killed for demanding those very freedoms, but they still courageously protest and persist.

They are fighting not just for themselves but for their daughters and their families, so the next generation can grow up with hope instead of fear and opportunities instead of oppression.

In America, we believe freedom should not depend on your gender, your religion, or where you were born. No government should be able to control a woman's body or take away her voice or determine her future, not here nor in Iran.

In Oregon, where thousands of families with Iranian roots have built their lives, we understand that their fight for freedom is not distant. It lives right here in our own communities.

The people of Iran deserve a future without fear, a future with free speech, free assembly, and the right to choose their own leaders and their own path.

I stand with the women of Iran. I stand with their courage. I will continue fighting for a future where every person in Iran can live free, speak freely, and dream without fear.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that tonight I rise to speak as we continue to examine what is unfolding before us. It is important to remember that the fight for the Iranian people is not some distant, unfamiliar struggle. In many ways, it echoes the very heartbeat of our very own American story.

Long before America became the beacon of liberty it is today, we were a people under the heavy hand of those who believed power belonged to rulers, not citizens. Our Founders knew what it meant to challenge an authority that refused to listen. They understood what it meant to stand up, too often alone, and declare that sovereignty belongs to the people.

They risked their livelihoods, Mr. Speaker, their reputation, their fami-

lies. They risked everything so that future generations might inherit a nation grounded in rights, not repression, but grounded in freedom.

Mr. Speaker, that spirit is alive today in the streets of Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan, and more than 1,000 towns and villages across Iran.

We often talk about the American Revolution, but we rarely pause to recognize what it really was: a movement of ordinary people who refused to accept that their destiny would be decided for them by somebody else. They believed they had a God-given right to shape their future, and that is precisely what the people of Iran believe today.

The parallels runs deep, deeper than we sometimes see.

When America endured the Great Depression, it was a time of doubt, fear, and uncertainty. But leaders like Franklin Roosevelt reminded the American people that despair is never destiny. Let me repeat that. Despair is never destiny. He told them that courage, unity, and faith could rebuild an entire nation from the brink of ruin.

Mr. Speaker, today the Iranian people are living through their own era of hardship—economic collapse, political oppression, and constant fear. Yet, they continue to stand, continue to march, and continue to hope. When the free world faced aggression in the 20th century, voices like Winston Churchill refused to surrender to hopelessness. He spoke truth when others stayed silent. He strengthened resolve when others faltered. He understood that a single courageous leader speaking plainly, boldly, and without apology could ignite the moral energy of millions.

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We are seeing that in Maryam Rajavi right now, and I will talk more about that in just a minute.

The same need exists today for the Iranian people: leaders like her who speak truth and nations that stand firmly with her and behind her.

Perhaps the strongest parallel of all comes from our own civil rights movement, a time when America confronted its deepest flaws, yet emerged stronger, more just, and more faithful to its founding ideals.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

That arc bends when brave people stand up. It bends when people refuse to be silenced. It bends when free nations lend their voices to those who have been denied one.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are witnessing in Iran today: a movement not controlled by foreign powers, not directed by political elites, but born from the ordinary people of Iran, who simply want the dignity that God intended for them.

Mr. Speaker, I will say this plainly: The return of sovereignty in Iran will

come from the Iranian people themselves. They will write their own destiny. They will determine their own future. America must stand with them, not to orchestrate their path but to affirm it, and not to impose our own will but to support their right to express theirs.

That is why I am behind Maryam Rajavi. We know from our own history that when people rise for freedom, the greatest thing the free world can do is stand beside them.

Mr. Speaker, she has a 10-point plan. I will read that 10-point plan.

One, rejection of the velayat-e faqih, absolute cleric rule; affirmation of the people's sovereignty in a republic founded on universal suffrage, as well as pluralism.

Two, freedom of speech, freedom of political parties, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press and the internet; dissolution and disbanding of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the IRGC; the terrorist Quds Force; plainclothes groups; the unpopular Basij; the Ministry of Intelligence; the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution; and all suppressive patrols and institutions in cities, villages, schools, universities, offices, and factories.

Mr. Speaker, we heard the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) speak about women getting their rights and girls getting their rights. Madam Rajavi is fighting for the rights of women, girls, and men, too, by the way.

Three of the 10-point plan is a commitment to individual and social freedoms and rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: disbanding all agencies in charge of censorship and inquisition, and seeking justice for massacred political prisoners, prohibition of torture, and the abolishment of the death penalty.

Four of the 10-point plan, separation of religion and state, and freedom of religions and faiths.

Five, complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural, and economic rights, as well as equal participation of women in political leadership, Mr. Speaker; abolishment of any form of discrimination; the right to choose one's own clothing—figure that out, how simple that should be, the right to choose one's own clothing freely; the right to freely marry and divorce; the right to obtain education and employment; and prohibition of all forms of exploitation against women under any pretext.

Six, an independent judiciary and legal system, consistent with international standards based on a presumption of innocence, Mr. Speaker: the right to defense counsel, the right of appeal, the right to be tried in a public court, full independence of judges, abolishment of the mullahs' sharia law, and dissolution of the Islamic Revolutionary Courts.

Seven, autonomy for and removal of double injustices against Iranian na-

tionalities and ethnicities consistent with the NCRI's plan for the autonomy of Iranian Kurdistan.

Eight, justice and equal opportunities in the realms of employment and entrepreneurship for all the people of Iran in a free-market economy: restoration of the rights of blue-collar workers, farmers, nurses, white-collar workers, teachers, and retirees.

Nine, protection and rehabilitation of the environment, which has been absolutely massacred under the mullahs.

Finally, 10 of her 10-point plan, a nonnuclear Iran that is also devoid of weapons of mass destruction: peace, co-existence, and international and regional cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I can't say it any better than what Maryam Rajavi has said. This matters for even our security. It matters for regional stability, absolutely. Most importantly, it matters because America has always believed that human liberty is not a Western idea and not an American idea; it is a universal truth.

A sovereign Iran built by its people, powered by its people, and accountable to its people would be a force for stability, not chaos. It would be a force for prosperity, not destruction. It would be a force for hope, not despair.

The stories of the Iranian people today sound strikingly similar to the stories of the American people throughout our history: resilient, courageous, unwilling to surrender to tyranny, and determined to leave a better world for their children.

Mr. Speaker, history shows us this: When people demand sovereignty, and the free world supports them, the world changes. It happened in 1776. It happened throughout Europe in the darkest days of the 20th century. It happened in the movements for justice and equality on our own soil, and it can happen again for the people of Iran.

Mr. Speaker, that is our prayer. That is our thought for today. I yield back the balance of my time.

RESTORING ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDITS

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. MCCLELLAN of Virginia was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today for the third week in a row to anchor the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour to tell stories of people who stand to lose their health insurance if Congress does not act in 22 days.

Mr. Speaker, 22 days. We have 22 days to prevent at least 5 million people from losing their health insurance.

For the past 3 weeks, the Congressional Black Caucus has brought stories of the 22 million people who will see their health insurance premiums double or even triple and, for some, spike beyond their ability to pay when enhanced premium tax credits expire in 22 days. An estimated 5 million people will lose their health insurance because they can't afford these new premiums. The Congressional Black Caucus has told stories of people concerned that they will be among those 5 million.

Mr. Speaker, I have good news. This Thursday, the Senate will have two competing plans on the floor for a vote. Yet, Speaker JOHNSON still has not committed to allowing a vote on the floor in this body.

Leader JEFFRIES has a discharge petition open right now to extend the tax credits, and we just need four Republicans to join us in signing it.

House Democrats have come forward with a plan. Senate Democrats have come forward with a plan. Senate Republicans have come forward with a plan. The administration still doesn't seem to have a concept of a plan, but we have 22 days where the American people are expecting us to act.

Mr. Speaker, I will begin this Special Order hour by yielding to the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chair YVETTE CLARKE of New York.

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Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for her hard work and dedication in anchoring the Special Order hour of the Congressional Black Caucus for 3 consecutive weeks, as she has rightly stated. We are so proud of the work she is doing to uplift the stories of people across this Nation who are standing on the edge of what could be catastrophic in terms of healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, good evening, I am Representative YVETTE D. CLARKE, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, proudly representing New York's Ninth Congressional District, which is located in central and southwest Brooklyn.

I thank my colleague once again, Congresswoman JENNIFER MCCLELLAN, for anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

I rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to bring awareness to the fast approaching ACA tax credit funding deadline and to give voice to everyday Americans who will be harmed by the Republican-led healthcare crisis. The enhanced ACA tax credits are set to expire on December 31 unless congressional Republicans join Democrats to extend them.

In a few short weeks, millions of Americans will be forced to pay astronomical prices for their health insurance. Many will lose coverage altogether because they will not be able to afford it.