

I look forward to your response, as well as your responses to my letters to you dated March 13, April 23, May 13, June 8, July 7, July 10, July 17, July 22, and July 31. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff member, Thomas Culligan.

This is very important for the safety of our country.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORBES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### H.R. 3611, THE LIMITS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Counterterrorism officials have warned mass transit systems around the country to increase patrols after they discovered that a group of individuals within the United States were allegedly planning to detonate backpack bombs aboard New York City trains.

In the past month, we have once again been reminded that terrorists are still targeting U.S. mass transit systems and other major landmarks. We have to continue to be proactive against those seeking to do us harm and minimize our vulnerabilities, especially vulnerabilities on U.S. soil.

I'd like to discuss one continuing threat that needs to be addressed. In

2002, 2003, and 2004, personnel from Iran, a designated state sponsor of terrorism, were caught photographing and videotaping the New York City subway and other popular landmarks.

I ask my colleagues and the American people to think about why Iranian personnel would photograph and videotape the New York subway system and other popular sites. I'm referring to individuals from state sponsors of terrorism that are here with diplomatic immunity, supposedly in the United States for official business at the United Nations.

Let me be clear. Personnel from a state sponsor of terrorism have been caught on numerous occasions spying. What do you think they intended to do with that information, the videotapes and the photos? These are not our friends. A few, but not all, of these individuals were expelled by the U.S. Department of State. Between 2004 and 2009, the State Department issued over 8,600 visas to delegates and representatives from countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism.

Through the 1947 United Nations Headquarters Act, the United States is required to allow diplomats and personnel into the United States for official business at the United Nations headquarters complex in New York City, including personnel from countries who otherwise would be ineligible for U.S. visas.

We can't afford to take these threats lightly. The presence of hundreds of individuals with diplomatic immunity from countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism is an overwhelming and expensive task for U.S. counterterrorism and counterintelligence resources.

Michelle Van Cleave, the U.S. National Counterintelligence Executive from 2003 to 2006, put it well when she said, "While the FBI—by far, America's premier counterintelligence agency—is assigned responsibility for countering all foreign intelligence operations in the United States, it lacks the manpower, the resources, the training, and probably the public support to venture into the complex grounds of analyzing the vast foreign presence in the country to identify the intelligence operations embedded therein." . . . "The counterintelligence problem is not one of sheer numbers, though by any measure there are far more intelligence operatives in the United States than we have personnel to address them. The larger and more compelling issue is the scope of their activities. Historically, embassies and other diplomatic establishments within the United States have served as a hub for foreign intelligence activities because of the operational security that they afford."

Why are we helping state sponsors of terrorism gather intelligence information within the United States? When and where will we draw the line?

If we can't stop these people from coming to the United States, the least we can do is limit their access to our

country by dramatically limiting the radius that personnel from state sponsors of terrorism are permitted to travel.

Congressman DAN BOREN and I have introduced H.R. 3611, the LIMITS Act, Limiting the Intrusive Miles of International Terrorist Sponsors, which would limit personnel from state sponsors of terrorism to a half-mile radius of the U.N. complex. A half mile is more than enough space for personnel from state sponsors of terrorism to obtain lodging, food, and other necessities, and will be an easier and more cost-effective use of U.S. counterterrorism and counterintelligence resources, as well as the New York Police Department.

The FBI's top two priorities are to: number one, protect the United States from a terrorist attack; and, number two, protect the United States against foreign intelligence operations and espionage.

□ 1530

When it comes to state sponsors of terrorism with diplomatic immunity in our country, it is past time to make the FBI's job a little easier. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the LIMITS Act and restrict access of State sponsors of terrorism on U.S. soil.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank you, and I thank my leadership for allowing me to take this Special Order hour to discuss what has certainly become the most important issue that has been going on in this Congress over these last couple of months, and that is the issue of health care reform or, as the Democratic leadership and the President himself have rephrased that now, reform of our health insurance industry, rather than reform of our health care system. But we're going to spend a little time, Mr. Speaker, talking about where we are with regard to this and what are some of the alternatives. Particularly from our side of the aisle, we are often criticized, I think unjustly, about being the party of opposition without having any sufficient alternative ideas to present. In other words, the accusation of being "the party of no."

My colleague from Georgia, Mr. Speaker, is here with me on the floor today, this afternoon, and he and I laugh about that a little bit. We both agree, yeah, we are the party of "know"—it's spelled K-N-O-W. So I would like to take this opportunity to share with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle just what it is we do know and what are some of those suggestions with regard to health care reform or, indeed, health insurance reform, that