



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Condemns Payments to Iran for Ransom

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REP. TOM EMMER:

Hi, Tom Emmer here. As you know, our nation's foreign policy, or lack thereof, has been a big topic of conversation lately. We recently found out that in January, the Obama administration paid Iran, the largest state sponsor of terror, a \$400 million ransom in untraceable cash in exchange for the return of the U.S. soldiers they were holding hostage. Shortly after that discovery, it was announced that another \$1.3 billion was sent to Iran in three shipments over three weeks for a total of \$1.7 billion in ransom. Unfortunately, this administration's reckless policies have only emboldened Iran. Recently, seven Iranian fast attack boats harassed a U.S. Navy ship in international waters and just this month, Iran threatened to shoot down Navy aircraft that neared but did not enter Iranian airspace. These are just some of the more than 30 such interactions this year, according to a defense official. That's why I co-sponsored the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act, which the House passed this week. Through this, any transfer of funds to Iran in exchange for the release of a prisoner or hostage would be prohibited. In fact, this would prevent any and all cash payments to Iran. Additionally, this would increase transparency by requiring the President and his administration to report any outstanding claims of this sort to Congress prior to the settlement being made. For the past eight years, we have had a lead from behind foreign policy and it's time for that to end. Ensuring the safety of American citizens is our number one role and this week, we took one more step toward that goal by preventing future ransom payments to Iran. I remain committed to enacting policies that will protect you and all of America and all of Americans now and always.

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