

## **Congressman Raul Ruiz (D-CA)**

Hello everyone. My name is Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz. I am an emergency medicine physician and public health expert, and I represent Southern California's 36<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. I am also the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. I am immensely proud of the growing Iranian American community in my district and it is a true honor to be with you for this year's Free Iran Conference. Standing up for the human rights of the people of Iran is not only necessary but vital to helping ensure that the Iranian people know that America and all peace loving people stand with them in their pursuit liberty, democracy and a peaceful Iran.

That is why I am a strong supporter of H. Res. 118, which underlines a plan to promote a democratic, secular and nonnuclear Republic of Iran. This resolution condemns past and present Iranian state sponsored terrorist attacks against United States citizens and officials as well as Iranian dissidents. This resolution stands with the people of Iran who are continuing to hold legitimate and peaceful protests against an oppressive and corrupt regime. The House must pass H. Res. 118 to send its clear message to the Iranian people. The American people stand with you. The Iranian people have spoken and the United States has heard you and stands with you in solidarity. Know that we will continue supporting you as you pursue your basic rights, freedom and democracy.

I applaud you for convening this gathering today to let the world know that the majority of the United States Congress condemns Iran's malignant behavior in the region and supports the people's rights for freedom and liberty. To the Iranian people seeking freedom, democracy and human rights, I stand with you, the United States Congress stands with you, and the American people stand with you. Thank you.