

Congressman Scott Peters (D-CA)

Thank you very much. It's wonderful to be here. Thank you very much for coming and for inviting me. I didn't bring prepared remarks, but I would say that I certainly agree with everything that Mr. McClintock said. He's a republican. I'm a democrat. We don't often agree on a lot. But we agree on this.

Some weeks ago members of the community came to my office in San Diego to meet with me and told me of the stories of heartbreak and courage that are happening in Iran now. I said, "Thank you for the information but where's the Persian food?" So the last event I had in my campaign was they invited me to a home and cooked me way more Persian food than I could eat. Of course, I appreciate very much the hospitality of the community.

Look, this is a community that really appreciates freedom in a way that many Americans have forgotten, and I want to say for you to come here today is really important because you need to be in the face of the people here representing communities across the country in the United States of America. **We are your allies in terms of freedom. Our hearts break for the people and the way they're being treated but we also know that it's a struggle that's righteous and we can't win it for them, but we can speak for them, and we'll continue to do that. They have a right to defend themselves** from the United Nations. And so we're with you. As Tom said, members of Congress from across the country, across the political spectrum believe in the struggle with you and we are here to speak up for you. Like I said, we can't win this battle for the people in Iran but it's a revolution of freedom, much like ours was many hundreds of years ago.

So we wish you the best. Thank you again for coming. Educate everyone. The best thing you can do for us is educate us. Most of us have not been to Iran. Most of us are aware that this is a proud, proud people, educated people. In my district, doctors, engineers, teachers, businesspeople, this is a really, really important civilization for us and it will win the struggle. It will survive and it will thrive, and you'll have the United States as an ally. But educate us all, let us know how we can help, and remind us to speak up. This is an important struggle and we're with you. Thank you for inviting me and good luck.