



# CONGRESSMAN BOB LAGOMARSINO

## Committee on Foreign Affairs

Subcommittee on  
Economic Policy & Trade

Subcommittee on  
Inter-American Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 28, 1981

### LAGOMARSINO CALLS FOR HOSTAGE CRISIS INVESTIGATION

Washington -- "The unanswered questions about what happened in Iran demand a thorough Congressional investigation," Congressman Bob Lagomarsino said today. He joined other Members of Congress in cosponsoring a resolution to establish a select committee to investigate the events related to the takeover of the American Embassy in Tehran.

The select committee would include members of the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, with jurisdiction over foreign policy, on the Judiciary, with jurisdiction over terrorism and legislation protecting American diplomats and on Armed Services, with jurisdiction over military matters.

"We should be concerned not only about the conditions under which the hostages were held for so long but also about the circumstances which permitted a band of terrorists to take over the American Embassy with impunity," the Congressman said.

"I believe the Carter Administration ignored explicit warnings about the danger to the Embassy and its personnel, and by not taking adequate precautions, it unwittingly helped make easy the takeover of our Embassy," Lagomarsino added. "I am sure this would be confirmed by our investigation."

"Only by fully uncovering how this national humiliation took place can we develop the means to ensure that such an experience will not be repeated," Congressman Lagomarsino concluded.

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ASSISTANT REGIONAL WHIP  
FOREIGN POLICY TASK FORCE  
CHAIRMAN

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**  
January 28, 1981

COMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY  
AND TRADE  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR  
AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
PACIFIC AFFAIRS  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
OVERSIGHT AND SPECIAL  
INVESTIGATIONS

Dear Colleague:

The safe return of the American hostages from Iran generated a patriotic response in America rarely seen in recent decades. Not since Americans landed on the moon on July 20, 1969 has there been such a spontaneous demonstration of pride and unity of spirit in America.

Once again, our citizens are heard saying, without apology and without embarrassment, that they are proud to be Americans.

The values of freedom, truth and honor have been expressed over and over as the true meaning of what the United States of America represents. That is something of which we can all be proud. It is something worth remembering and celebrating. For that reason, I am introducing legislation to declare January 20 "Freedom Day" as an annual celebration to express our patriotic feelings about America and to rededicate ourselves to the values that make America great, and by so doing, honor those brave American hostages who upheld the honor of the United States by their individual courage and personal dedication.

The text of the resolution follows:

Whereas 52 American hostages in Iran gained their freedom on January 20, 1981;

Whereas their release sparked a spontaneous, emotional and patriotic response and sense of unity among Americans;

Whereas Americans around the world joined together in spirit to celebrate the safe return of the hostages to freedom; and

Whereas it is appropriate to designate a day of celebration each year in order for Americans to renew this patriotic spirit and to rededicate themselves to life, liberty and justice, values that make America a great Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 20th day of January is designated as "Freedom Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

If you wish to cosponsor this resolution, please contact Rachel Ekeroth at 53601 or Jake Dunman at 53246.

Sincerely,



ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO, M.C.