Good evening everyone and thank you for coming. Thank you Coalition for Peace Action for arranging this emergency demonstration on such short notice. I was asked to give the perspective of a Jewish American and long time loyal supporter of Israel, to the US withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Agreement or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

According to the King James Version of the Bible, the text from Matthew 5:5 reads: Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Given what is going on lately, it occurs to me that the meek and a whole lot of other people need to start speaking up frequently and loudly or no one, the meek included, shall inherit the earth. We all grow increasingly frightened daily, that there may be no Earth left whatsoever.

Yesterday I attended an incredibly informative conference sponsored by the UJA Federation of New York which happens to be the largest local philanthropy in the world. The conference was entitled Tackling Poverty Today, Big Problems Need Big Solutions. Amazingly and coincidentally, the key note speaker was Princeton Professor of Sociology Matthew Desmond, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City”. He talked about his research on eviction and how it contributes to the downward spiral of poverty for far too many people who ironically live in the wealthiest nation on the planet. The entire conference focused on the current state of poverty in this country and the sharing of innovative efforts and solutions for tackling this ongoing crisis.

Since Jewish Americans have always been actively engaged in helping the poor and the needy, yesterday’s conference was no exception. Jewish Americans share a strong belief in Tzeddakah or charity and Tikkun Olam or repairing the world. Antithetical to Tikkun Olam and a major issue that has caused tremendous division and confusion among Jewish Americans, is the opposition by the current leaders of both the US and Israel to the JCPOA. Most, if not all, Jewish Americans have overwhelming love and support for Israel, especially for her right to exist in peace among her neighbors. However, when it comes to dealing with Iran and the JCPOA, this is where we Jews within our not so large community, run into difficulties and sometimes very vocal disagreement.

I can assure you that not all Jewish Americans, myself included support AIPAC – the American Israel Public Affairs Committee – and its long term ongoing efforts to undermine the JCPOA. I for one whole heartedly oppose AIPAC and fully support the Iran Nuclear deal that was reached in 2015 after many years of hard work among sensible and devoted world leaders and expert negotiators. I and many other peace loving Jewish Americans applauded and whole heartedly supported President Obama’s effort to reach this deal. I am horrified by our now so-called president’s divisive and reckless action yesterday that puts the safety of the entire world at risk.

I urge everyone to continue to speak up, speak out, write your representatives, pass township resolutions and just do whatever it takes to oppose this insanity. Please remember to thank Senator Menendez and Senator Casey of Pa, as well as any other of our sensible elected officials for their statements condemning this foolish action.

Israel was born out of the ashes of the Holocaust that wiped out 6 million innocent Jewish Europeans, one third of the total Jewish population of that time. Over **60 million people** were killed in total during World War II which was over 3% of the world's population at the time. We as Jews continue to believe strongly in, “Never Again”, but for all of mankind. Sadly and frighteningly, too many who should know better, including the misguided leadership both here and in Israel are taking us down a very dangerous path that could lead to an ultimate Holocaust for us all. I say Never Again for anyone. Tikkun Olam for all! Enough is Enough! Diplomacy not War! Peace Now!