

Sen. Deb Fischer: US-Iran Nuclear Agreement Doesn't Address Differing Views

By Benjamin A. Schoenkin | photo by Jake Crandall on April 9th, 2015



On Wednesday evening, United States Sen. Deb Fischer spoke at the Nebraska Union ballroom about the threat of Iran and answered questions related to U.S. foreign policy. Fischer began her speech with a question, “What is the greatest threat to our nation?”

The senator responded to her own question by saying that there are many possible answers. But she said that Iran is the greatest threat. She referenced Russia, China and the Middle East as key hotspots that are problems for the U.S. and its allies.

Fischer said that President Obama’s decision to not follow through with the red line in the Middle East has created problems.

“The president’s red line in the sand has faded, I questioned his lack of strategy at the time and now this ambivalence has, I believe, emboldened our enemies and really frightened our allies,” Fischer said. “So this regional instability gave rise to the Islamic State of Iraq and of the Lavant, which is known as ISIL.”

While Fischer talked about other areas in the Middle East and elsewhere, she maintained that Iran is the greatest threat.

“While each of these threats is very, very grave. I don’t believe that they can be viewed within a vacuum and there is still a much greater threat out there,” she said. “It’s the threat that keeps me up at night, and that is the spectra of a nuclear Iran.”

Fischer said there are issues with the preliminary agreement with Iran.

“While the framework that was announced last week does not represent a binding agreement, I think there is good reason to question whether the parameters that are described by the White House meet that standard,” Fischer said regarding the preliminary agreement stopping Iran from being a country with nuclear power.

The senator said that the agreement doesn’t solve the difference of views between the two countries.

“What this really means is that after over a year and half of negotiations, the key points of the agreement are still remaining a disagreement,” she said.

An audience member asked Fischer after her speech if Americans should be “acknowledging evil that the U.S. does”?

“People get killed,” Fischer said, disagreeing with the audience member’s statement about evil. “We are a country that I believe stands for freedom. This is a dangerous world. We will see an attack on our homeland again.”

Fischer talked about how people asking questions and expressing opinions isn’t allowed in many of the countries that are a threat to the U.S.

Kevin Smith, chairman of UNL’s department of political science, said Fischer’s speech was a substantive speech on foreign policy.

“One of the things that I was kind of impressed by is it’s not just that her comments were substantive, but the questions many of which were from students were also substantive,” Smith said.

Fischer said in an interview after her speech that it’s important for young people to understand foreign policy.

“It’s the world we live in,” she said. “You can’t ignore what’s out there. You need to have I think a full understanding, a better understanding, dig into issues. Get the facts on things and learn to discern a broader policy out there. I think that’s really important that students learn that discernment, so that they can understand how everything is interconnected.”

Fischer said that Iran with intercontinental ballistic missiles would be dangerous, because "they will have an ICBM within a year probably," which would make Iran more than just a threat to its neighbors.

"It’s time to start showing some spine and making some hard choices because the world is still counting on us.”