

Iran

On May 12th, President Trump will announce his decision about waiving sanctions on Iran, and therefore decide the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The ZOA is firmly opposed to allowing Iran to acquire a military nuclear capability, and strongly supports any steps to prevent that outcome. Through its illicit nuclear program and support for international terrorism, Iran poses a significant threat to U.S. national security interests, and also poses an existential threat to Israel. The JCPOA merely facilitates the progress Iran is making towards a nuclear weapon capability rather than neutralizing it. President Obama admitted in a 2015 NPR interview that only 13 to 15 years from the JCPOA's implementation, Iran will have an almost immediate nuclear breakout capacity. Congress must immediately adopt and implement additional robust sanctions against Iran's nuclear program, against its ballistic missile development program, against its conventional weapons procurement program, and against its regional and global support for terrorism.

JOINT ACTION FOR BOTH HOUSE & SENATE:

- **Potential military options must be made credible**
- A believable threat of military force is an essential tool for persuading Iran to end its pursuit of nuclear weapons capability, end its aggressive, dangerous nuclear-weapons-related ballistic missile program, and end its support of worldwide terrorist activities.
- Actively engage in policy discussion of legislation authorizing the use of force, and related military planning and activities if necessary.
- The US should also support any Israeli military action should Israel deem that a military response as an act of self-defense is required.

ACTION FOR SENATE:

- **Urge your Senators to enact a Senate version of the sanctions legislation passed by the House (H.R. 1698) in October, 2017.**
 - Imposes new, and strengthens existing, financial sanctions against those involved in Iran's ballistic missile development program, including Iranian Government agencies as well as any foreign entity involved in Iran's ballistic missile development.
- **Urge your Senators to introduce and support a companion bill to H.R. 5132, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act. (see below)**

ACTION FOR HOUSE:

- **Thank your Representative for passing H.R.1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act**, and urge continued support of policies to keep Iran from moving forward with its attempt to develop nuclear capability.
- **Urge your Representative to support H.R. 5132, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act**, introduced by Reps. Ed Royce (R-CA) and Elliot Engel (D-NY).
 - Strengthens bans on transactions with the IRGC and its business affiliates and requires reports on the IRGC's enterprises that facilitate terrorism.
 - Opposes Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization so long as Iran remains a state sponsor of terror.

TALKING POINTS

- Proposals to “fix” or “save” the Iran deal by adding a new agreement to the JCPOA are fundamentally flawed. The existing European proposal to allow ballistic missiles capable of 1280 mile range is unacceptable. Ballistic missiles are only useful for delivering nuclear or chemical payloads, and both Israel and American bases are within that range.
- Despite the JCPOA, Iran has taken every opportunity to demonstrate it is not serious about giving up its pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.
- Sanctions, which were an important element of pressuring Iran, are supposed to remain in place for Iran’s terrorism and ballistic missile activities, but they were completely emasculated by President Obama. This waiving of sanctions resulted in a greater ability for businesses in Asia, Europe and America to invest in Iran (estimated to be worth an additional \$50 billion a year to Iran’s economy.)
 - The JCPOA further gifted the release of \$150 billion in previously frozen assets to Iran. They have used the gift to modernize their military and engage in destabilizing actions in the region
- Iran’s economy is still vulnerable to serious sanctions if our will to impose them exists.
 - Iran’s currency dropped in value by 1/3 since the start of the year.
- The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2231 (which is the resolution that endorsed the JCPOA), calls upon Iran “not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology” until October 2023.
- Iran is closely cooperating with North Korea on ballistic missiles and possibly nuclear research.
- Iran has pursued the ability to indigenously produce ballistic missile and cruise missile goods, services, and technologies, and Iran has also acquired destabilizing types of conventional weapons.
- Iran continues to be a radical Islamic theocracy that seeks to export its revolutionary ideology abroad by supporting terrorist proxy groups—including Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip—which carry out attacks on Israeli civilians and threaten American interests and assets.
 - Most recently, in February, 2018 a drone armed with explosives was sent by Iran across the border from Syria.
- The US State Department continues to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran as the world’s foremost state sponsor of terrorism.