

BILL SUMMARY

June 2012

Prevent Iran from Acquiring a Nuclear Weapons Capability (S. J. Res. 41 and H. Res. 568)

Both resolutions support a policy of prevention by clearly rejecting any policy that would seek to rely on containing a nuclear-capable Iran. The resolutions do not authorize the use of force. The measures do call for continued and increasing economic and diplomatic pressure to persuade Iran to meet its international obligations of suspending its uranium enrichment activities, leading to a permanent agreement verifiably assuring that Iran's nuclear program is entirely peaceful.

The House on May 17 passed H. Res. 568 by an overwhelming vote of 401-11. The measure was introduced by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ranking Member Howard Berman (D-CA).

S. J. Res. 41 remains pending in the Senate. The senate measure was introduced by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and replaces S. Res. 380, introduced by Graham and Sens. Robert Casey (D-PA) and Joseph Lieberman (I-CT).

Key Provisions:

- Strongly supports U.S. policy to prevent the Iranian government from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.
- Warns that time is limited to prevent the Iranian government from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.
- Urges continued and increasing economic and diplomatic pressure on Iran until it agrees to suspend its nuclear program and fully cooperate with international inspectors, leading to a permanent agreement verifiably assuring that Iran's nuclear program is entirely peaceful.
- Rejects any U.S. policy that would rely on efforts to contain a nuclear weapons-capable Iran.
- Urges the president to reaffirm the unacceptability of an Iran with a nuclear-weapons capability and to oppose any policy that would rely on containment as an option in response to the Iranian nuclear threat.