



IRAN IN FOCUS

APRIL 7, 2016

No Unilateral Concessions to Iran

The United States is [reportedly](#) considering additional concessions to Iran beyond what the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) requires—including potential access to the U.S. dollar. An April 7 Washington Post [editorial](#) clearly spells out why this would be a serious mistake. Since the deal's conclusion, Iran has violated U.N. Security Council resolutions with illegal missile tests, stepped up its regional aggression, and directly confronted our armed forces. The Post, along with leading members of Congress, is right to oppose unilateral U.S. concessions. If Iran wants additional sanctions relief, it must first change its behavior.

Members of Congress oppose unilateral concessions to Iran.

- “These reports are deeply concerning, to say the least. As Iran continues to undermine the spirit of its nuclear agreement with illicit ballistic missile tests, the Obama administration is going out of its way to help Tehran reopen for business. The president should abandon this idea.”
- *Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI), March 31, 2016*
- “I do not support granting Iran any new relief without a corresponding concession. We lose leverage otherwise, and Iran receives something for free. Only when Iranian banks fully absolve themselves of involvement in terror financing and missile procurement, when Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps ceases its saber-rattling against America’s allies, and Iran’s leadership ends its despicable threats against Israel and the Jewish people – only then, perhaps, should the international community consider additional steps with regard to Iran’s reintegration into the global economy beyond concessions pursuant to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.”
- *House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD), March 31, 2016*
- “I am deeply troubled by reports that the Administration may provide Iran with access to the U.S. financial system, either directly or through some offshore mechanism. ... The Financial Action Task Force, a global anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism finance-standards body continues to warn that Iran poses a threat to the international financial system and would pose a threat to the U.S. financial system if they were allowed in.”
- *House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), March 31, 2016*
- “Such actions would fundamentally undermine our nation’s own reputation as a global leader on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, and also provide Iran legitimacy in the international financial system that it has not earned, especially as the regime in Tehran has not addressed its use of Iranian financial institutions and foreign financial institutions to conduct illegitimate transactions, nor its lack of anti-money laundering or countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) controls.”
- *Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), March 30, 2016*

- “Allowing a belligerent Iran access to the U.S. dollar poses real dangers to our country and economy. ... Congress should make clear that until the Iranian regime drops its illicit missile program and funding of terrorism, it won’t receive another dime of sanctions relief.”
- *House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), April 5, 2016*
- “I believe this will set bad precedent, and it will not be the last time the Iranians and/or their business partners receive additional relief not contemplated”
- *Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), March 31, 2016*
- “I am alarmed by recent reports that the Obama Administration may be considering options to facilitate use of the U.S. dollar in transactions involving Iran. Such actions would violate the spirit, and potentially the letter, of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).”
- *House Financial Services Committee Chairman, Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), April 1, 2016*
- “So long as Iran continues to finance terrorism and advance its ballistic missile program, I will work to maintain current policies that prevent Iran from using the U.S. financial system.”
- *Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN), April 5, 2016*
- “The United States should maintain Iran’s isolation from the U.S. banking sector, immediately take action to restore other sanctions related to terrorism and human rights violations, and clamp down on Iran’s illicit weapons shipments.”
- *Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR), April 4, 2016*
- “The American financial system is central to our efforts to counter terrorism financing and illegal trade. The Treasury Department should not allow Iran to conduct business with the U.S. dollar. At a time when Iran is funding terrorism across the region, pursuing a destabilizing ballistic missile program, and threatening Israel’s existence, the Administration should not consider allowing it access to our financial system.”
- *Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), April 6, 2016*
- “Reports that Iran may be allowed access to America’s financial system or the U.S. dollar is deeply disturbing” said Meng. “I urge the Administration to not move forward with any plan that would do this, and I look forward to getting answers from Secretary Kerry about whether or not it’s true.”
- *Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), March 31, 2016*
- “The report that the Treasury Department is working to loosen currency restrictions for Iran is deeply troubling. It is still against the law for American and foreign banks to use the U.S. dollar in trade with Iran because they continue to fund terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. Last year’s nuclear agreement with Iran does not authorize this type of relief. The United States should not be rewarding Tehran with access to the dollar while they test ballistic missiles that threaten our allies like Israel.”
- *Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH), April 1, 2016*
- “Allowing Iran to access the U.S. dollar would be seen as additional concessions and rewarding poor behavior. Iran does not deserve this benefit, which I am worried could be used to further finance global terror.”
- *Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA), April 6, 2016*
- “It is a bad idea to provide Iran access to the U.S. dollar, which is currently blocked through sanctions. Other nations do not process transactions with Iran, because they do not want to be cut off from the U.S. market.”
- *Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY), April 5, 2016*

For a full list of statements, click [here](#).