

January 8, 2016

Members of Congress to Administration: Sanction Iran

Leading lawmakers from both parties, including supporters of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), criticized the administration for delaying new sanctions on Tehran over its missile program. On Dec. 30, 2015, the U.S. Department of Treasury notified Congress that it intended later in the day to impose sanctions on nearly a dozen companies and individuals for providing support to Iran's ballistic-missile program. The administration, however, walked back its notification and the sanctions were not issued. Members of Congress are pressing the administration to impose the new penalties, warning that the delay will embolden Tehran's destabilizing regional activities. House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said he was "disappointed that the Administration has delayed punitive action in response to Iran's recent ballistic missile tests." Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ) stated that the administration "continues to turn a blind eye to Iranian saber rattling...for fear Iran will walk away from the nuclear deal."