

Standing Up to a Bad Deal

For more than 20 years the world has tried to stop Iran's quest for a nuclear weapon. In July, America and its negotiating partners reached an agreement with Iran after 20 months of negotiations that unfortunately fails to halt that quest.

While Americans should applaud the Administration for their efforts and continue to support robust diplomacy, the proposed deal does not meet the minimum requirements to end Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons. The deal falls short in five critical areas: inspections and verifications, possible military dimensions, sanctions, duration and dismantlement.

As Congress continues to debate the significant flaws in the deal, in Israel, where debates are usually robust and pluralistic, there is a broad consensus across the political spectrum.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was joined in rejecting this deal by Opposition Leader Isaac Herzog who lamented that the proposed agreement "will unleash a lion from the cage, it will have a direct influence over the balance of power in our region, it's going to affect our borders, and it will affect the safety of my children."

Agreeing to this fatally flawed deal would effectively end any hope of stopping Iran's nuclear weapons program through diplomacy, eventually forcing America to make the choice that this deal was meant to avoid: confront Iran militarily or allow it to possess a nuclear weapon.

Iran already supports terror groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah in the region; groups that have killed Americans and Israelis. Under the terms of the agreement, once the IAEA verifies initial compliance, Iran is posed to get \$100-150 billion dollars injected into its economy. Imagine the havoc they could cause by even using but a small portion of that to expand their support for terrorist groups.

After the deal was announced, Iran's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, remarked about recent demonstrations in Tehran, "You heard 'Death to Israel' [and] 'Death to the U.S.' You could hear it...so we ask Almighty God to accept these prayers by the people of Iran." Imagine those prayers backed by nuclear weapons.

Reaching a diplomatic end to Iran's nuclear ambitions is clearly the best possible solution. However, this agreement falls short of that aim and may instead lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the world's most unstable region. It could also leave a future U.S. president with the choice of capitulating to a nuclear Iran or ordering military action. Now is the time to tell Congress to reject this deal and demand a better deal that ends Tehran's nuclear quest.