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## SENATE JOINS HOUSE IN EXTENDING, TIGHTENING U.S. SANCTIONS ON IRAN

"AIPAC applauds the unanimous Senate and House approval of the Iran Freedom Support Act (IFSA), legislation that strengthens and renews critical U.S. sanctions against Iran aimed at choking off funds that would aid the Islamic Republic in its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

"A nuclear-armed Iran poses a grave threat to the security of the United States and threatens to further destabilize the entire Middle East, sparking a dangerous nuclear arms race among Arab nations in the region. IFSA is an important step toward further isolating the radical regime in Tehran, and its unanimous passage by both houses of Congress is further evidence of a unified American commitment to ensuring Iran does not obtain the world's deadliest weapons.

"The bill extends U.S. sanctions mandated under the Iran Libya Sanctions Act for the next half decade and codifies into U.S. law sanctions previously imposed only under executive order, including preventing American companies from doing business in or with Iran.

"Iran uses revenues from its energy exports—virtually the sole source of its hard currency—to finance its pursuit of nuclear weapons, its missile program and support for terrorism. IFSA will deny Iran much needed foreign investments, penalizing Tehran for its illicit nuclear program and depriving Iran of the funds it needs to acquire atomic arms.

"IFSA's passage comes at a time when Iran continues to flout international standards of conduct and violate its obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. If Tehran continues to reject U.N. demands to halt its nuclear work, the U.N. Security Council must take decisive action and implement strong international diplomatic and economic sanctions against Iran.

"AIPAC commends the House and Senate Democratic and Republican leadership for their efforts to ensure IFSA's passage at this critical time."

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