

AIPAC Applauds Senate Passage of Tough New Iran Sanctions

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AIPAC strongly applauds the unanimous Senate passage of the [Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act](#) and urges conferees to move rapidly in order to return the bill for final passage as quickly as possible. This is a matter of great urgency.

Iran's possession of a nuclear weapons capability would be a devastating blow to America's national security interests. The U.S. and our allies must impose biting diplomatic and economic pressure to try and peaceably prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability and avoid confronting more distressing alternatives.

This important legislative achievement is a credit to the strong, bipartisan leadership of Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

As Senate Majority Leader Reid explained, "This bill would impose new sanctions on Iran's refined petroleum sector and tighten existing U.S. sanctions in an effort to create new pressure on the Iranian regime and help stop Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon."

The Senate bill (S.2799) was cosponsored by Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL). It includes the Senate version of the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (S.908)—introduced by Sens. Bayh, Lieberman and Kyl, cosponsored by 76 Senators and passed by the [House 412-12](#)—as well as the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act ([S.1065](#)), overwhelmingly passed by the House in October by a vote of [414 to 6](#). The Dodd-Shelby bill also contains important provisions clamping down on sanctions-busting activity known as transshipment.

The legislation was also strongly championed by Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), who authored key provisions in the bill "cracking down on companies that sell cyber-spy technology to the Iranian government," like [Siemens](#) and [Nokia](#), by freezing them out of business with the U.S. government, [explains](#) Sen. Schumer.

Majority Leader Reid spoke on the Senate floor in support of the legislation. "We have all watched the Iranian regime oppress its own people on the streets of Iran and continue to defy the international community on nuclear issues," Reid said. "Passing this legislation sends Iran an important message that the United States is serious about keeping it from acquiring nuclear weapons."

For more background on this legislation, including key provisions, click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

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