

PRESS RELEASE

AIPAC Applauds Toughest Iran Sanctions Ever Proposed

Urges Immediate Hill Passage, Admin. Implementation

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Contact: Josh Block
press@aipac.org

AIPAC applauds the House-Senate Conference Committee's completion of new Iran sanctions legislation, and urges its immediate passage and full implementation. The Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act (CISAD) is the toughest Iran sanctions bill ever to emerge from Congress. It provides the best hope that political and economic measures can peaceably persuade Iran to end its illicit nuclear program before it is too late.

AIPAC salutes Senate Banking Committee Chair Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL), House Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) for their leadership in producing this strong bill.

The new legislation seeks to exploit Iranian economic vulnerabilities in order to persuade Iran's regime to curtail its nuclear ambitions and support of terrorism. CISAD explicitly targets the Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), requiring financial sanctions on entities that facilitate any IRGC activity. CISAD also mandates broad financial sanctions on any entity involved with Iran's nuclear weapons program or support for terrorism. CISAD seeks to limit investments in Iran's energy sector by sanctioning offending companies and barring them from federal contracts. The bill presumes denial of export licenses to countries permitting sensitive technology diversions to Iran. CISAD also prohibits U.S. nuclear technology export licenses to any country assisting Iran's nuclear weapons pursuit.

CISAD provides the President with a narrow diplomatic window to significantly curb Iran's refined petroleum imports and its ability to expand its own refinery operations; if diplomacy fails, the President must impose sanctions on companies in violation of CISAD.

CISAD strongly supports the human rights of the Iranian people. It prohibits U.S. contracts with any company providing the Iranian regime with sensitive communications technology that is used to suppress freedom of speech. And the bill builds on legislation—originally offered by then-Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. Robert Casey, Sen. Sam Brownback as well as Reps. Barney Frank and Mark Kirk—that authorizes state and local pension funds to divest their portfolios of stock in companies that invest in the Iranian energy sector.

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