

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Strengthening America's Negotiating Position with Iran
Cosponsor the U.S.-Iran Nuclear Negotiations Act

Dear Colleague:

For the first time in over 30 years, high-level officials in the United States and Iran are engaging in diplomatic talks about Iran's nuclear weapons program and are discussing the possibility of a nuclear program deal.

As the U.S. and Iran enter into formalized talks in the coming months, the U.S.-Iran Nuclear Negotiations Act outlines clear standards for a nuclear weapons deal with Iran and strengthens sanctions and the credibility of military action if Iran does not meet these standards.

It is important that President Obama have all options at his disposal during negotiations about Iran's nuclear weapons program. Negotiations must be backed by a credible military threat and strengthened sanctions.

The last remaining window we have to keep Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability is soon closing. Credible cooperation begins with Iran's significant and verifiable compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and U.N. Security Council resolutions. Iran, however, has done nothing to earn this credibility within the international community.

Any nuclear weapons agreement must include Iran's full compliance with the following standards:

1. Permanently halt all uranium enrichment and identify all sites where such enrichment is occurring;
2. Remove, and transfer to a third party under the IAEA, all uranium enriched to a 20 percent and higher threshold;
3. Close the uranium enrichment facility at Fordow, near Qom, Iran; and
4. Cease developing reactors capable of producing plutonium and cease the importation and domestic manufacturing of all centrifuges for enriching uranium.

President Obama recently argued for the need of congressional consent to use military force against Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles. If Syrian chemical weapons are a threat to the U.S. national security interest, then Iran's nuclear weapon capability is an exponentially greater national security threat.

The costs of preventing Iran from gaining nuclear weapons will pale in insignificance compared to the costs of a nuclear-armed Iran.

My office plans to drop the U.S.-Iran Nuclear Negotiations Act COB, Thursday, 10 October, a week before the 15 October diplomatic meetings with Iran in Geneva, Switzerland. Please contact Stephanie Hammond at Stephanie.Hammond@mail.house.gov or 202.225.4576 if you would like to be a cosponsor.

Sincerely,


Congressman Trent Franks
Member, House Armed Services Committee