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Republicans' Three Partisan Political Ploys on Iran
These Three GOP Bills on the Floor This Week Are Designed to Undermine the Iran Nuclear Agreement, Thereby Undermining America's National Security

Key Points:

- This week, leading up to the Republican Convention, Republicans are having "Iran Week." During this week, they are bringing up three bills that are nothing more than political ploys. All three bills are designed to undermine the Iran Nuclear Agreement – the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- **Regardless of whether you supported the JCPOA, we all agree that Iran must not possess a nuclear weapon. At this time, the JCPOA is the best way to achieve this critical goal.**
- **The Administration has issued veto threats on all three of these GOP bills.** As the Administration points out in its Statement of Administration Policy, **"The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 5631, H.R. 4992, and H.R. 5119, bills that would prevent the United States from implementing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). These bills would undermine the ability of the United States to meet our JCPOA commitments. ... These bills, separately or collectively, thus would impact the continued viability of the JCPOA, a diplomatic arrangement that peacefully and verifiably prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Dismantling the JCPOA would remove the unprecedented constraints on and monitoring of Iran's nuclear program, lead to the unraveling of the international sanctions regime against Iran, and deal a devastating blow to the credibility of America's leadership and our commitments to our closest allies."**
- **The House GOP Leadership has abandoned any regular order. None of these bills were marked up by committee.** Indeed, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy introduced H.R. 5631, the so-called "Iran Accountability Act," **a 78-page bill**, on July 6, just a few days ago.
- **Two of these GOP bills (H.R. 5631, the so-called "Iran Accountability Act," and H.R. 5119, the so-called "No 2H20 from Iran Act") are within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Rep. Eliot Engel, Ranking Democrat on the committee, is opposed to both of these bills.** Rep. Engel has stated that the adoption of the Iran Nuclear Agreement, which he opposed, is now a settled matter, and that he does not support efforts such as H.R. 5631 and H.R. 5119 that are simply designed to undermine the agreement. As Rep. Engel stated back in October 2015 when Republicans were bringing similar bills to the Floor, **"The Majority now seems intent on trying to undermine the Iran deal the way it has tried to undermine Obamacare by voting and re-voting on a settled issue. It hasn't worked in the 60 attempts on health care and it won't work now."**
- **The third bill (H.R. 4992, the so-called "United States Financial System Protection Act") is within the jurisdiction of the Financial Services Committee.** This GOP bill would also have the effect of undermining the Iran nuclear agreement. **Rep. Maxine Waters, Ranking Democrat on the committee, is strongly opposed to the bill.**

Below is information how each of these three bills would undermine the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

H.R. 5631, So-Called “Iran Accountability Act” (Within Jurisdiction of Foreign Affairs Committee)

- **H.R. 5631, the so-called “Iran Accountability Act,” was introduced by Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy on July 6. As the Administration points out, “H.R. 5631 contains provisions that would prevent the Administration from implementing certain U.S. sanctions relief commitments under the JCPOA on the basis of non-nuclear-related activity of Iran. Specifically, the legislation would require the reimposition of sanctions on individuals and entities delisted on Implementation Day, as well as the re-imposition of financial and economic secondary sanctions lifted on Implementation Day, including sanctions on prominent Iranian economic sectors, such as the petrochemical sector. In addition, this bill lacks flexibility including new waiver authorities as has typically been provided for new robust sanctions measures for continued use of sanctions in furtherance of our national security and foreign policy objectives.”**

H.R. 4992, So-Called “United States Financial System Protection Act” (Within Jurisdiction of Financial Services Committee)

- **H.R. 4992, the so-called “United States Financial System Protection Act” also contains provisions that undermine the JCPOA. As the Administration points out, “The bill contravenes U.S. commitments in the JCPOA, as it would reapply secondary sanctions on Iran’s financial sector by prohibiting permissible financial transactions between Iran and the international community that are wholly outside the U.S. financial system. This would amount to a harmful and unnecessary overreach, undermining the President’s exercise of International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) authority. As the Administration has been clear, the United States will continue to impose our primary trade embargo on Iran, with certain limited exceptions set forth in the JCPOA, and take robust measures to protect the U.S. financial system from access by Iran. However, this bill seeks to undermine Iran’s conduct of banking transactions outside of the United States – activity that became permissible on Implementation Day in return for Iran meeting its nuclear-related commitments, as verified by the IAEA.”**

H.R. 5119, So-Called “No 2H2O From Iran Act” (Within Jurisdiction of Foreign Affairs Committee)

- **H.R. 5119, So-Called “No 2H2O from Iran Act” is also designed to undermine the JCPOA. It is bad policy and forecloses the United States from procuring heavy water from Iran permanently. Heavy water is distilled from regular water and is made up of different, heavier molecules than normal H2O. Heavy water has numerous uses, including in both civilian and military nuclear plants, and also commercial and research uses, such as in scientific and medical research.**
- **As the Administration points out, “Removal of excess heavy water from Iran denies Iran access to material that could be stockpiled for potential nuclear weapons production while also providing the international market access to an important commodity for research and non-nuclear industries. As part of the JCPOA, Iran committed to a limit on the amount of heavy water that it could accumulate, but may sell its excess heavy water, further ensuring that Iran does not use this product to develop material for a nuclear weapon. The United States does not produce heavy water. For U.S. industry and research labs, heavy water is a critical material used for biomedical and diagnostic research – such as MRIs and pharmaceutical development – as well as for chemistry, physics and environmental analysis.”**