J Street’s Iran-Related Legislation Key

Current legislation that pro-diplomacy lawmakers should oppose

The Biden Administration is working to restore limits on Iran’s nuclear activities which had prevented it from obtaining a nuclear weapon before former President Donald Trump disastrously withdrew the United States from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018. Predictably, some Members of Congress are attempting to torpedo the Administration’s efforts. **Members who support the diplomatic efforts of the Biden Administration should OPPOSE the following bills, whether as stand-alone vehicles or as part of the National Defense Authorization Act:**

**SENATE:**

**S. 256**
This bill terminates sanctions waivers that were issued as part of the JCPOA and were renewed by the Biden administration. These waivers allow for vital international actions that help transition Iranian nuclear facilities from operating in ways conducive to nuclear enrichment at military-grade levels to monitored civilian nuclear activities. For example, one of these sanctions waivers allows work on redesigning the nuclear reactor at the Iranian facility of Arak; this redesign is to modify it from a reactor that could produce weapons-grade plutonium to one that cannot.

**S. 451**
This bill attempts to tie the Iranian nuclear issue to Iranian relations with Russia by preventing the President from lifting nuclear-related sanctions on any entity that conducts a transaction with a sanctioned Russian entity. This is a blatant attempt to prevent any diplomatic progress to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon by linking the nuclear issue to Iranian relations with Russia, and would only push Iran and Russia toward closer illicit cooperation -- as well as pushing Iran closer to a nuclear weapon.

**S. 472**
This bill would give anti-diplomacy Senators the ability to block any nuclear agreement with Iran by requiring it be approved by a two-thirds majority vote, as if it were a treaty.

**S. 2210**
This bill would require congressional review before the President can remove or waive any sanctions on Iran, Iranian entities, or Iranian persons, and would enable Congress to block these actions by passing a Joint Resolution of Disapproval.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

**H.R. 3020**
This bill calls for sanctions on Iranian civilian airports and is an attempt to prevent potential sanctions waivers for airlines from taking effect in the event of an agreement. Removing sanctions on Iranian civilian aviation was an important bargaining chip in past diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

**H.R. 3095**
This bill would give anti-deal hawks in the Senate the ability to block any nuclear agreement with Iran by subjecting it to a two-thirds majority vote.

**H.R. 2958**
This bill sunsets the president’s ability to provide national security waivers for sanctions on Iran, making it functionally impossible for the president to negotiate or implement any JCPOA-type agreement.