

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2004

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

As the Biden administration considers negotiations with Iran, we write to express our bipartisan and shared view that we must seek an agreement or set of agreements with Iran that are comprehensive in nature to address the full range of threats that Iran poses to the region. Though more work must be done on what the parameters of a final deal should entail, and the process by which it is reached, we have a bipartisan consensus on the following set of issues.

Since the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) entered into force, Iran has continued to test ballistic missile technology that could potentially be applied to nuclear capable missiles, funded and supported terrorism throughout the Middle East, and engaged in cyber attacks to disrupt the global economy. Following the decertification of the JCPOA, Iran violated the previously agreed upon restrictions on refining fissile material and stated that it was no longer bound by any of its limits.

We call upon the administration to address these actions by Iran, de-escalate tension in these conflicts, and ensure the security of all nations in the region. America and our allies must engage Iran through a combination of diplomatic and sanction mechanisms to achieve full compliance of international obligations and a demonstrated commitment by Iran to addressing its malign behavior. Three core tenets - their nuclear program, their ballistic missile program, and their funding of terrorism - must be addressed from the outset.

First, restrictions on Iran's nuclear program must be extended until the regime conclusively demonstrates that it has no interest in a nuclear weapons program. Members of Congress and presidents from both parties, including President Biden, have long held that Iran must never be able to acquire nuclear weapons. The current inspection regime must be tightened to prevent the delays international inspectors have faced visiting suspect sites and Iran must resolve recently emerging concerns with its nuclear archive and the IAEA's discovery of undeclared uranium particles.

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Second, diplomacy with Iran must limit not only the production of nuclear material but also ensure that Iran cannot develop a nuclear-capable ballistic missile. Over the past five years, Iran has defied the international community with respect to its ballistic missile program and continued its development of technology that could be used for a delivery system. This refinement and advancement of missile technology is destabilizing and increases the potential threat of a nuclear attack on nations within the region.

Third, Iran's malign behavior throughout the Middle East must be addressed. It has sowed chaos in Syria and Yemen, continued to arm Hezbollah and worked to provide the terrorist group with precision guided missiles to attack Israel, backed forces in Iraq that have targeted American troops and worked to undermine the Iraqi government, taken American citizens prisoner, and committed human rights violations. These and potential future actions must be addressed and Iran must release their political prisoners.

As Democrats and Republicans from across the political spectrum, we are united in preventing an Iranian nuclear weapon and addressing the wide range of illicit Iranian behavior. There is consensus within Congress that allowing one of the world's leading state sponsors of terrorism to obtain nuclear weapons is an unacceptable risk. We recognize that there is not a singular diplomatic path forward on these objectives and we look forward to working with you as partners to achieve lasting peace in the region.

Sincerely,



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress

_____/s/

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

_____/s/

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

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Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

_____/s/

Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress

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Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Don Bacon
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Andy Barr
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

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Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

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Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

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Mike Bost
Member of Congress

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J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

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Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

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Jim Costa
Member of Congress

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Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

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Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

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Ken Buck
Member of Congress

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Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

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Tim Burchett
Member of Congress

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Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

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Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

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Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

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John Carter
Member of Congress

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Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

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Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

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Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

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Ben Cline
Member of Congress

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Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

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Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress

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Jared Golden
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John Curtis
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Jimmy Gomez
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Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

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Josh Gottheimer
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Pat Fallon
Member of Congress

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Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

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Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress

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Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

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Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

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Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

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Scott C. Franklin
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Kaiali'i Kahele
Member of Congress

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Andrew R. Garbarino
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Andy Kim
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Carlos A. Gimenez
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Tony Gonzales
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Conor Lamb
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Anthony Gonzalez
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James R. Langevin
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Kay Granger
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Brenda L. Lawrence
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James Hagedorn
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Al Lawson
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Kevin Hern
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Susie Lee
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Jaime Herrera Beutler
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Mike Levin
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A. Donald McEachin
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Grace Meng
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Frank Lucas
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Kweisi Mfume
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Blaine Luetkemeyer
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Joseph D. Morelle
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Nicole Malliotakis
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Brian Mast
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Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

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Tom Rice
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Mike Rogers
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Kim Schrier, M.D.
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Marilyn Strickland
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Van Taylor
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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Mike Turner
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Eric Swalwell
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David G. Valadao
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Norma J. Torres
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Jeff Van Drew
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_____/s/
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

_____/s/
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

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/s/

David Trone
Member of Congress

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Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

/s/

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

/s/

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

/s/

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

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Susan Wild
Member of Congress

/s/

Don Young
Member of Congress