

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, TEXAS  
CHAIRMAN

BRENDAN P. SHIELDS  
STAFF DIRECTOR



GREGORY W. MEEKS, NEW YORK  
RANKING MEMBER

SOPHIA A. LAFARGUE  
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Eighteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write to underscore our ongoing concern over the Biden administration's failure to hold Iran to account for its nuclear provocation. Since 2020, this administration has extended significant financial relief to entice Iran to agree to a new nuclear deal. This includes reinstating sanctions waivers terminated by the previous administration like ones carving out nuclear projects in Iran from sanctions under the Iran Freedom and Counter Proliferation Act (IFCA).

These waivers were designed to "improve ongoing oversight of Iran's civil nuclear program" to ensure it remained strictly peaceful. Far from keeping Iran's nuclear hostilities in check, we've seen Iran, backed by Russia's Rosatom, dramatically increase its provocative, destabilizing nuclear activity in violation of its Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) commitments, while also curtailing International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visibility into key nuclear sites in Iran since the administration restored these waivers.

Iran's stockpiling of highly enriched uranium and continued installation of advanced IR-6 centrifuges undermines any claim of Iran maintaining an exclusively peaceful nuclear program. Iran is now capable of producing seven bombs worth of fissile material in a month. This level of enrichment has no justifiable civilian purpose.

Moreover, Iran continues to block the IAEA's ability to verify the peaceful use of all nuclear materials in Iran. Its failure to provide adequate answers to outstanding questions regarding undeclared nuclear material found at sites in Iran, and de-designation of IAEA investigators this past fall, raise further concerns about Iran's nuclear program and our adversaries' role in enabling it.

Continuing to issue these waivers clearly does not serve U.S. nonproliferation objectives or national security interests. For this reason, the Biden administration rightly chose not to extend waivers under IFCA exempting certain JCPOA-linked projects in Iran, including those supported by Russia's Rosatom, from sanctions when they lapsed in January 2024. This was a welcome step, but we remain concerned that by failing to take a clear stance on this, the administration is leaving the door open to future sanctions relief on Iran despite the potential benefits for Vladimir Putin's war machine.

This administration must clearly commit to facing the Iranian threat head on and uphold longstanding U.S. policy of preventing a nuclear-armed Iran. This must include publicly clarifying the termination of IFCA waivers and utilizing the full scope of the law, including mandatory sanctions provided for under IFCA, to restrict any form of support for Iran's nuclear program. As General Michael Kurilla noted in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, "an Iran with a nuclear weapon would change the Middle East overnight and forever."

Sincerely,



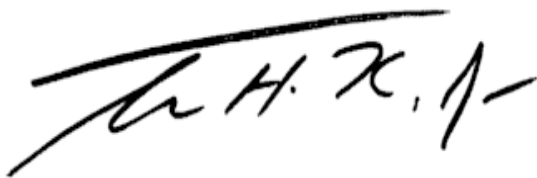
---

MICHAEL T. McCAUL  
Chairman  
House Foreign Affairs Committee



---

JOE WILSON  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Middle East, North  
Africa, and Central Asia  
House Foreign Affairs Committee



---

THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Europe  
House Foreign Affairs Committee



---

KEITH SELF  
Member  
House Foreign Affairs Committee