

Congress Must Back a Swift Return to the Iran Nuclear Deal

After withdrawing the United States from the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), President Trump waged a failed and reckless “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran. This dangerous policy brought the two countries disturbingly close to the brink of war, shortened Iran’s “breakout time” to build nuclear weapons, and caused Iranian civilians to suffer needlessly. With a new administration coming into Washington, it’s time for a policy reset and a swift return to diplomacy.

There’s a lot of reason to be optimistic about the prospects for peace. The incoming Biden administration, our European allies, and Iranian leaders all appear to be eager to turn the page and restore the JCPOA. But leaders in Washington and Tehran will both face staunch opposition from hardliners, and the window of opportunity to save the deal could be limited. That’s why it’s critical that members of Congress publicly support diplomacy and oppose any legislation that seeks to undermine a return to the deal.

The JCPOA was always meant to be a starting point. While there are a myriad of issues that should be resolved diplomatically between the United States, Iran, and other governments in the region, the nuclear issue is the most pressing. A full return to the nuclear deal should serve as a foundation for future talks to address these issues.

To improve the chances of successful diplomacy between the United States and Iran, members of Congress should:

- » Publicly support a full return to the JCPOA by the United States.
- » Oppose any legislation that seeks to hinder the Biden administration from restoring the deal.
- » Refrain from calls to use Trump’s maximum pressure sanctions as leverage in attempts to secure additional concessions from Iran on issues outside of the JCPOA.

Ensure a swift return to the JCPOA.

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