



## Bipartisan Solidify Iran Sanctions Act

*Introduced by Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV) and Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA)*

### The Need:

- For over four decades, the Iranian regime has consistently worked to destabilize the Middle East and to threaten American citizens and allies across the globe.
  - Iran has proven a deceitful, irresponsible actor, bent on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in violation of multiple international agreements.
    - Most notably, Iran's nuclear weapons and missiles programs threaten to spark a regional nuclear arms race and pose grave danger to Iran's neighbors—including Israel, which the regime has repeatedly promised to destroy.
    - While delaying nuclear negotiations with unreasonable demands, the regime has rapidly advanced its nuclear program, reducing to just weeks its "breakout period" for producing enough weapons-grade uranium for one nuclear weapon.
  - The leading state sponsor of terrorism, Iran also provides arms, training, and financial backing for Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) and other bad actors, including the Houthis, Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, various Iraqi militias, the Taliban, and Syria's President Bashar al-Assad.
    - Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), itself a designated FTO, oversees this aid delivery, fueling violence and civilian suffering across the region.
  - Iran has also launched direct military attacks on Saudi Arabia, U.S. military bases, and commercial ships in the Persian Gulf, sowing discord and disrupting trade.
  - Iran's cyberattack and cyberespionage operations have escalated as well, targeting the United States and our allies, as seen in Iranian hackers' recent intrusions into critical Albanian computer networks and hacks on various U.S. utilities and companies.
- Iran shows no intention of tempering this aggression. In fact, the regime has only increased its malign actions, broadening cooperation with President Putin as he continues his war on Ukraine.
  - The United States and our allies must stand ready with every tool in our toolkit to counter the regime's threats to American citizens, innocent civilians across the region, and essential allies like Israel.

### What This Bill Does:

- The *Solidify Iran Sanctions Act* ensures that the United States is prepared to stand up to Iran's harmful activities with a full range of economic sanctions, extending the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA) indefinitely, beyond its expiration in 2026.
  - The ISA has been extended repeatedly on a bipartisan basis since its first passage in 1996, as a cornerstone of the U.S. sanctions program against Iran's malign behavior.
  - Maintaining the ability to respond to Iranian escalation economically is critical for the United States and our allies, as we continue to work to halt Iran's weapons development and terrorist sponsorship, and to bring about good-faith negotiations.
  - The *Solidify Iran Sanctions Act* would remove the sunset clause for this critical sanctions authority, while allowing the President to waive sanctions on a case-by-case basis.

- Congress originally passed the Iran Sanctions Act in 1996, allowing the president to impose secondary sanctions on Iran's energy sector, with other Iranian industries added over the years.
  - ISA consists of "triggers" that place sanctions on firms or entities that violate U.S. sanctions under this law.
  - The law has served as a crucial bulwark for the United States and its allies in deterring and responding to Iranian aggression with severe economic consequences.
- Particularly with Iran's progress towards developing a nuclear weapon, it is essential that the United States solidifies its ability to levy sanctions and apply pressure on this rogue regime.

### **Supporting Organizations:**

- American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)
- Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) Action

### **Rep. Lee, Rep. Steel, and Colleagues on this essential legislation:**

- *"Iran remains a severe threat to the Middle East and global stability on many fronts. I introduced this bipartisan, bicameral legislation to make permanent the Iran Sanctions Act, a landmark law that has protected the United States and our allies against Iran's threats since 1996. With Iran closer than ever to obtaining nuclear weapons, we must use every tool in our toolbox to prevent the Iranian regime, and its collaborators, from dragging the world down a dangerous path. This legislation will ensure that we can continue to levy sanctions targeting Iran for its destabilizing activities, including its illicit weapons program and financial support for terrorism. The United States must stand firm in stopping Iran from threatening the security of the United States and Israel, our strongest ally in the region. By extending the Iran Sanctions Act beyond its expiration in 2026, this bill ensures we are able to do just that."*
  - **Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV)**
- *"From brutal abuses committed against its own people, to its never-ending threats towards free and democratic societies, the Iranian regime has proven time and again that they are a rogue state with no interest in preserving regional or global peace. It is more important than ever that we prevent the unacceptable threat of a nuclear Iran from becoming a reality. Existing sanctions have proven successful in preventing such a catastrophe, and we must ensure that we can continue to place economic and strategic pressures on Iran to prevent them from developing nuclear weapons or supporting terrorists. I'm proud to partner with Senator Scott on this issue, and to lead this bipartisan group of my House colleagues to send a clear signal that the United States will not tolerate existential threats against us, our allies, or freedom and democracy around the world."*
  - **Rep. Michelle Steel (R-CA)**
- **Original Cosponsors:** Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA), Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL), Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN), Rep. Carlos Gimenez (R-FL), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX), Rep. David Trone (D-MD), Rep. Mike Waltz (R-FL), Donald Norcross (D-NJ), David Rouzer (R-NC), Kathy Manning (D-NC), John Rutherford (R-FL), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ), Pat Fallon (R-TX), and David Joyce (R-OH)

**To review this legislation, see the [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) page for.**

### **For more information or to cosponsor or endorse this bill, please contact:**

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