

Veterans For Peace Annual Lobby Days

May 18th-20th, 2015

Talking Points: Diplomacy with Iran

Our priority is to see the U.S. government engage in the diplomacy that will reduce the possibility of war between the U.S. and Iran and forward our organization's objective to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons. A majority of Americans support direct negotiations with Iran. As members of Veterans For Peace, we believe this is the best way to maintain international peace and security.

The Agreement: Iran and the P5+1 world powers achieved an agreement that will allow greater inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a commitment by Iran to use their nuclear power for civilian purposes, and an immediate lifting of financial sanctions on Iran by the United Nations, the U.S. and the E.U. Diplomats from these six countries — the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Russia and China — are in reach of achieving a sustainable nuclear deal with Iran by June 30th.

Support Ongoing Negotiations: In the United States, members of Congress will play a big role in determining whether the administration can move forward with negotiations. Some members of Congress have introduced legislation in an effort to precipitously weigh in on the deal. These include the Kirk-Menendez bill, which would impose additional sanctions. Such short-sighted behavior is unwarranted, and we call on members of Congress to oppose this legislation.

Support a Potential Deal: If a final agreement is reached that secures the goals of the framework agreement, we urge you to vote in support of allowing that agreement to go forward. Due to the passage of the revised Corker legislation on congressional review of an agreement, every member of Congress will have an opportunity to take this vote, likely this summer or fall. Congressional rejection of a potential final deal would send a signal of bad faith to the international community, and would undermine the tremendous progress our diplomats have made. We urge all members of Congress to stand on the right side of history by voting in support of a deal.

Oppose S. 269 Kirk-Menendez Bill: Prohibits the President, from exercising any waiver of sanctions on Iran or taking any other action to alter or limit the application of sanctions until the date that is 30 days of continuous session of Congress after the President transmits these comprehensive solution and assessment reports.

Reinstates as of July 6, 2015, any sanctions imposed pursuant to statute or executive action that are deferred, waived, or otherwise suspended by the President if the President has not transmitted the comprehensive solution and reports to Congress by that date.

Revises exceptions to certain sanctions with respect to financial transactions for purchases of Iranian-origin petroleum (currently, only crude oil).