



During our many collective years in Congress, we unwaveringly supported Israel, led or co-sponsored every major piece of legislation to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship and stood at the forefront of every major piece of sanction law designed to halt Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

We support the international nuclear weapons agreement between the P5+1 nations and Iran.

This deal halts the immediate threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. A rejection of it would not lead to stronger measures, but instead would put Iran back on the path to develop a nuclear weapon within two to three months. As U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew recently wrote, the suggestion that a "better deal" can now be obtained "is a dangerous fantasy."

Under this agreement, the core of Iran's plutonium reactor at Arak will be removed and filled with concrete, 98 percent of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile will be eliminated, and Iran will be required to provide inspectors access and continuous surveillance at Iran's nuclear facilities including underground sites. Sanctions relief will be phased in over time and the sanctions can be put back into place if Iran cheats.

Military options remain on the table should Iran violate the agreement, while rejecting this deal would weaken the deterrent value of America's military option.

Many nuclear experts and former military and intelligence officials in both the U.S. and Israel are also backing this agreement. Just last week, more than 70 nuclear experts called for approval of the Iran nuclear deal citing it as "strong, long-term and verifiable." Earlier this month, three dozen retired U.S. generals and admirals signed a letter calling the deal "the most effective means currently available to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons" and wrote that gaining international support for military action against Iran, should that ever become necessary, "would only be possible if we have first given the diplomatic path a chance." And only a week before that letter was sent, top Israeli military and intelligence leaders, including dozens of Israeli generals, urged the acceptance of the Iran accord and called for an Israeli policy to "renew the trust between and enhance the political and security cooperation with the U.S."

We championed the U.S.-Israel alliance as members of the House and Senate, and we all strongly support this agreement because it will enhance the security of the U.S., the Jewish state of Israel and the entire world.

Carl Levin
U.S. Senate (MI)
1979-2015

Anthony C. Beilenson
U.S. House of Representatives (NY)
1977-1997

Barney Frank
U.S. House of Representatives (MA)
1981-2013

Sam Gejdenson
U.S. House of Representatives (CT)
1981-2000

Paul Hodes
U.S. House of Representatives (NH)
2007-2011

Elizabeth Holtzman
U.S. House of Representatives (NY)
1973-1981

Steve Kagen
U.S. House of Representatives (WI)
2007-2011

Mel Levine
U.S. House of Representatives (CA)
1983-1993

Abner J. Mikva
U.S. House of Representatives (IL)
1969-1979

Steven R. Rothman
U.S. House of Representatives (NJ)
1997-2013

Robert Wexler
U.S. House of Representatives (FL)
1997-2010