

U.S. Rep. Gallagher: Leads letter demanding Congress has role in new Iran deal

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – As first [reported by Axios](#), Rep. Mike Gallagher led more than 160 members in urging the Biden administration to ensure that Congress has a role in any new nuclear agreement with Iran. The letter highlights the flaws of the Obama-era Iran agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and states that members will:

- Oppose any agreement that lifts U.S. sanctions on the Iranian regime without first verifying Iran has accounted for its nuclear capabilities, dismantled its enrichment capabilities, halted its support for terrorists, and released all U.S. prisoners.
- View any agreement not ratified by the Senate as non-binding.
- Work to reimpose and strengthen any terrorism, missile or human rights sanctions lifted, suspended or otherwise weakened by such an agreement.
- Investigate whether President Biden's dependency on the Russians to revive the Iranian nuclear deal is weakening our deterrent posture with the Russians in Ukraine and other areas of the world.

In part, the members wrote, "The Iranian regime brutally represses, persecutes, tortures, and murders its own people. It wastes the Iranian people's resources on terrorism, foreign aggression, missiles and nuclear weapons capabilities. We hope to see the day where all U.S. sanctions on Iran can be lifted, when the U.S. and Iran can enjoy normalized relations, and when the people of Iran have a government that respects human dignity. But that day will not come if you provide sanctions relief that will fuel the regime's corruption and incompetence at the expense of the Iranian people."

The letter was signed by a total of 165 House Republicans, including Leader

McCarthy, Whip Scalise, and Chairwoman Stefanik.

Click [HERE](#) to see the full letter and list of signers, or read the text below.

Dear President Biden:

In recent days, news out of Vienna suggests the Iranian regime is demanding a “guarantee” that U.S. sanctions will never be reimposed so long as they comply with the terms of an agreement regarding their illicit nuclear program. As duly elected representatives of American citizens across the United States, sent to Washington to check and balance the executive branch as established by the separation of powers in our Constitution, we feel compelled to remind you that you do not have the power to provide any such “guarantee.” Indeed, if you forge an agreement with the Supreme Leader of Iran without formal Congressional approval, it will be temporary and non-binding and will meet the same fate as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

If you continue to ignore Congress, thereby repeating the mistakes of the Obama Administration with the JCPOA, we can guarantee the following:

1. We will oppose any agreement that lifts U.S. sanctions on the Iranian regime without first verifying they have fully accounted for all past and present undeclared nuclear activities, fully dismantled their enrichment and reprocessing-related infrastructure and capabilities, verifiably ended all research and development on nuclear-capable missiles and fully dismantled all existing nuclear-capable missiles, verifiably halted all sponsorship of terrorism, released all American hostages and paid U.S. federal court judgements owed to the American victims of terrorism sponsored by the Iranian regime.
2. We will view any agreement reached in Vienna which is not submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification as a treaty—including any and all secret agreements made with Iran directly or on the sidelines of official talks—as non-binding.
3. We will demand that any such agreement be submitted to Congress pursuant to the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, and we will use the law’s 30-day review period to warn our colleagues, the American public and the private sector about any dangers and flaws of such an agreement.
4. We will work tirelessly to reimpose and strengthen any terrorism, missile or human rights sanctions lifted, suspended or otherwise weakened by such an agreement—including terrorism sanctions imposed on the Central Bank of Iran and the National Iranian Oil Company.
5. We will oppose any attempt to rescind the designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization and will work to expand U.S. sanctions on all government entities, banks, companies and

individuals connected to the IRGC.

6. We will work to invoke the snapback provision of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, including the enactment of sanctions targeting the supply of arms or missiles to Iran, any enrichment-related activity by Iran and any research and development on ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons.
7. As part of our legislative oversight responsibility, we will investigate any connections between the negotiations in Vienna over Iran's illicit nuclear program—in which we are relying upon the Russians as our intermediary because the Iranians refuse to negotiate with us directly—and the negotiations with the Russians regarding their invasion of Ukraine. If your dependency on the Russians to revive the JCPOA is weakening our deterrent posture with the Russians in other areas of the world, the American people deserve to know.

The Iranian regime brutally represses, persecutes, tortures, and murders its own people. It wastes the Iranian people's resources on terrorism, foreign aggression, missiles and nuclear weapons capabilities. We hope to see the day where all U.S. sanctions on Iran can be lifted, when the U.S. and Iran can enjoy normalized relations, and when the people of Iran have a government that respects human dignity. But that day will not come if you provide sanctions relief that will fuel the regime's corruption and incompetence at the expense of the Iranian people. We urge you to change course, learn from the first JCPOA's failures, and work with Congress to impose maximum pressure on the Iranian regime.