

March XX, 2015

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State,
Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
U.S. House of
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

We greatly appreciate your efforts to strengthen U.S. national security and foreign policy interests abroad. As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, we urge the prohibition of funding for the ongoing U.S. involvement in dangerous P5+1 negotiations with Iran.

Over the past year, these negotiations have failed to bring us closer to a final agreement that would ensure Iran never acquires a nuclear weapons capability. The Administration has already conceded—in contradiction of six United Nation Security Council resolutions—that Iran can maintain a “peaceful” nuclear enrichment program. There is no such thing as a “peaceful” Iranian nuclear program. Meanwhile, Iran’s economy is already rebounding from billions of dollars in desperately-needed sanctions relief provided by the U.S. under the interim agreement.

The deal reportedly under consideration would leave Iran’s nuclear infrastructure virtually intact and expire in ten years, at which point the mullahs could freely pursue a nuclear weapon. Moreover, Congress has been left completely in the dark by the Administration, which continues to stonewall bipartisan calls for prospective sanctions on Iran and congressional approval over any final agreement.

Last month, President Obama said *“I don’t see a further extension being useful if [the Iranians] have not agreed to the basic formulation and the bottom line that the world requires to have confidence that they’re not pursuing a nuclear weapon.”* At this point, Iran seems more intent on buying time to advance its nuclear program rather than negotiating in good faith. Congress must act to ensure that negotiations with Iran do not proceed if Tehran continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons with impunity and if no meaningful progress is made.

We share the Administration's hope for a peaceful solution to ending Iran's quest for nuclear weapons. However, after two negotiation extensions, billions of dollars in sanctions relief, and an emerging deal that would utterly fail to dismantle Iran's nuclear program, we should abandon these talks until Tehran is prepared to make meaningful concessions that would truly block its path to a bomb. We therefore respectfully request that you work to include the prohibition on additional funds for U.S. involvement in these ill-conceived negotiations.

Sincerely,

PETER J. ROSKAM
Member of Congress

LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress