

DATE

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We appreciate your commitment to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. This position has long been the policy of both Democratic and Republican administrations — supported on a bipartisan basis by Congress.

In March, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported finding particles of uranium enriched to the 83.7% level in Iran.¹ This is just below the 90% level generally considered to be needed to produce nuclear weapons. This is highly concerning and shows that Iran is capable of beginning to enrich uranium to the weapons-grade level. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl recently stated in a hearing that Iran could enrich enough weapons-grade uranium for a bomb in as little as 12 days.²

Beyond Iran's nuclear program, the Iranian government is drawing itself closer to Russia and China.³ Iranian-made drones are being used by Russian soldiers against Ukrainians, and China has taken a leadership role in diplomatic negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Gen. Mark Milley called the China-Iran-Russia relationship a problem for the U.S. "for many years to come."⁴ This strengthened alliance bolsters the Iranian regime's confidence and may make them more likely to challenge U.S. allies and interests.

The United States must increase its efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capability and to communicate to Iran, without any ambiguity, that any further progress in its nuclear program will result in severe consequences. Iran cannot be allowed to advance its nuclear program with impunity.

You have previously stated that all options are on the table. Given the state of the Iranian nuclear program, we encourage you to coordinate with our allies to implement the snapback mechanism embedded in U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231 should Iran advance its uranium enrichment past the 90% weapons-grade threshold. We believe that this coordination with our allies would send a powerful message of our unified commitment to deterring Iran's nuclear program. We also believe it would convey the message to Iran that they will not be able to reap the benefits of international sanctions relief if they decide to operate outside of their nuclear commitments.

¹ <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/23/03/gov2023-9.pdf>

² [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-can-make-fissile-material-bomb-in-about-12-days-us-official-2023-02-28/#:~:text=WASHINGTON%2C%20Feb%2028%20\(Reuters\),nuclear%20deal%20was%20in%20effect.](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-can-make-fissile-material-bomb-in-about-12-days-us-official-2023-02-28/#:~:text=WASHINGTON%2C%20Feb%2028%20(Reuters),nuclear%20deal%20was%20in%20effect.)

³ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/irans-new-friends-russia-and-china-4b2f1f00>

⁴ <https://www.cnn.com/2023/03/29/politics/china-russia-iran-us-mark-milley-nuclear/index.html>

If Iran fails to heed our warning, we stand ready to support the actions necessary to prevent a nuclear Iran and protect our allies in the region and across the globe.

Sincerely,



Abigail D. Spanberger
Member of Congress



Daniel R. Crenshaw
Member of Congress