

**Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
Washington Mission
May 15-16, 2007**

Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007– S 970/HR 1400

Your Message to the Illinois delegation:

Ask Congress to support and cosponsor the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007, S 970/HR 1400

KEY FACTS

- The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 closes loopholes in existing sanctions law, strengthens U.S. tools to cut off funds to Iran's nuclear program and prohibits U.S. nuclear cooperation with those aiding Iran's atomic efforts.
- Along with the federal government, many states, including Illinois, are taking the necessary steps to ensure that Iran does not have the financial capabilities to continue their nuclear program.
- Representatives Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced HR 1400, and Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced S 970.
- Representatives Jackson, Kirk, Schakowsky, Shimkus and Weller from the Illinois delegation are cosponsors of HR 1400.

Background

The world cannot allow the Iran to achieve its goal of becoming a nuclear power. In 2006, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution imposing sanctions on Iran for failing to end its enrichment of uranium. The Security Council was seriously concerned that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was still unable to provide assurances about Iran's undeclared nuclear material and activities after more than three years. So, the Security Council demanded that Iran suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, and gave it one month to do so or face the possibility of economic and diplomatic sanctions to give effect to its decision. Since then, the Iranian government has confirmed that they have been enriching uranium, leading the IAEA to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council for violation of non-proliferation agreements. Iran continues to defy the U.N. Security Council's demand that it suspend efforts to enrich uranium. In addition, Iran is preventing 28 International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors from entering the country and has kicked out the U.N. official overseeing inspections.

Iran has repeatedly and publicly stated its goal of obtaining nuclear weapons. At the same time, they have developed the long range Shihab-3 ballistic missile, capable of delivering a nuclear payload that could reach Israel, American interests in the Middle East, and much of Europe. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, continues to engage in anti-Semitic rhetoric, to deny the historic truth of the Holocaust, and to call for the immediate destruction of Israel. Iranian

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was recently quoted as calling “the destruction of the Jewish state as the only solution to the conflict in the Middle East”.

To change Iran’s course, the United States and the international community must exhaust every economic, diplomatic and political tool to further isolate the regime and increase the economic pressure to persuade the government to end its nuclear program. Passage of this legislation will make a definitive statement about the American people’s desire to ensure that our country is doing everything possible through non-military means to end activities by those countries and entities that are enabling Iran to pursue nuclear weapons.

With Iran continuing to defy the international community’s demands to suspend its nuclear activities, members of the House and Senate have introduced comprehensive legislation, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007, aimed at increasing economic and political pressure on Iran to persuade Tehran to end its nuclear program. Representatives Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduced the House bill, HR 1400, and Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Senate bill, S 970. The legislation closes loopholes in existing sanctions law, strengthens U.S. tools to cut off funds to Iran’s nuclear program and prohibits U.S. nuclear cooperation with those aiding Iran’s atomic efforts.

Representatives Jackson, Kirk, Schakowsky, Shimkus and Weller from the Illinois delegation are cosponsors of HR 1400.

The Federation supports efforts to hold the Iranian government responsible for its behavior and to take steps necessary to prevent Iran from attaining nuclear capability. Along with the federal government, many states, including Illinois, are taking the necessary steps to ensure that Iran does not have the financial capabilities to continue their nuclear program through targeted, direct divestment legislation. American companies are already barred from doing business in Iran.