Coalition for Peace Action,

Information and Action!

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DIPLOMACY, NOT WAR, IN IRAN!

PEACE IS STILL POSSIBLE

From the Friends Committee on National Legislation:

Speak out in Support of First-Step Nuclear Deal with Iran

The historic first-step deal over Iran's nuclear program is a significant step toward a final agreement to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran and a devastating war. We urge members of Congress to speak out in support of this nuclear agreement and against any new Iran sanctions, which risk sabotaging the unprecedented diplomatic progress that has been achieved.

3 Reasons Congress Should Support this Deal:

1) To Prevent a Nuclear-armed Iran: The terms of deal prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. For the first time in nearly a decade, Iran is committed to freezing its nuclear progress and rolling back the most urgent proliferation elements of its nuclear program. The deal opens up Iran's nuclear program to unprecedented inspections, including daily inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities Natanz and Fordow.

2) To Prevent a Devastating War: For the first time in years, the United States and Iran are on a path to peacefully resolving the dispute over Iran's nuclear program. As scores of U.S. and Israeli security officials have said, a military strike against Iran would have grave consequences, and a diplomatic resolution of this dispute should be pursued.

3) To Support Comprehensive Nuclear Deal: This first-step deal provides an opportunity to negotiate a final settlement that peacefully eliminates the threat of Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Local Contact:

3 Reasons Congress Should Oppose New Sanctions:

1) New Sanctions Risk Sabotaging Deal: In exchange for Iran's 6 month freeze and partial roll back of its nuclear program, the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany committed to minor sanctions relief and to "not impose new nuclear-related sanctions for six months." If Iran reneges, it would be caught early on by the inspections the deal calls for, and any sanctions that were lifted would be reinstated. Any new nuclear-related sanctions against Iran violate the agreement--even if they do not take effect until after the first-phase deal expires.

2) Push for Sanctions Undermines U.S. Negotiators, Emboldens Iran Hardliners: If Congress defies requests from the Administration and passes new sanctions, it would signal Iran that the U.S. negotiating team cannot deliver on its promises. It would divide the U.S. from its international negotiating partners and embolden Iranian hardliners.

3) New Sanctions Could Shut Down Negotiating Process: Former national security advisors Zbigniew Brzezinski and Brent Scowcroft have echoed calls from other top U.S. security officials in opposing new sanctions, warning that "additional sanctions now against Iran with the view to extracting even more concessions in the negotiation will risk undermining or even shutting down the negotiations."

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ALTERNATIVES TO WAR WITH IRAN

- Pursue the creation of a **Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone** in the Middle East, which would bring both Iran and Israel into peaceful negotiations. The 2010 Review Conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty put a top priority on this, and set 2012 as a target date for a conference to begin the process.

- **Keep channels of communication continuously open** with Iran. The danger of stumbling into war is increased by posturing and "tough" public positions. It can be reduced only through dialogue, reason, mutual respect, and negotiation.

- Work diplomatically to ensure that Iran's nuclear program has **transparency** and exists strictly for civilian purposes. As a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Iran is entitled to civilian uses of nuclear energy. **Negotiate** "negative security assurances" in which Iran pledges it won't attack others in return for their pledges not to attack Iran.

- Engage in unofficial, cultural, and citizen contacts with Iran. Such ***diplomacy from below*** was successful in helping resolve previous major conflicts, like the Cold War and relations with China, and can make an important contribution to lessening tensions and improving relations between Iran and the United States.

- **Offer Iran positive economic incentives (carrots) to cooperate**. Using only punitive measures (sticks) to pressure another nation to change its behavior has historically mostly proven ineffective.

Ask your representative to join the experts:

Your rep. can cosponsor **H.R. 783,** the bipartisan **Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons and Stop War through Diplomacy Act,** introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (CA).

Call the Congressional Switchboard and ask for your representative by name. 202-221-3121

For more info. on this bill, go here: http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/783

H. R. 783 would:

1. **Create a special U.S. envoy** for sustained negotiations with Iran on the nuclear issue, regional security, human rights, and other issues.

2. **Lift the "no contact policy"** that blocks U.S. diplomats from talking with their Iranian counterparts without advance permission from the Secretary of State.

3. **Prohibit funding for a pre-emptive attack** on Iran without congressional authorization.