

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3461

To impose certain requirements relating to the renegotiation or reentry into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or other agreement relating to Iran’s nuclear program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 11, 2023

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To impose certain requirements relating to the renegotiation or reentry into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or other agreement relating to Iran’s nuclear program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Iran China Account-
5 ability Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action,
2 signed at Vienna July 14, 2015, provided the Is-
3 lamic Republic of Iran with more than
4 \$100,000,000,000 in sanctions relief, circumventing
5 mandatory sanctions imposed pursuant to Acts of
6 Congress.

7 (2) In 2016, the United States delivered
8 \$400,000,000 in cash to the Islamic Republic of
9 Iran.

10 (3) On May 8, 2018, the United States with-
11 drew from the disastrous Joint Comprehensive Plan
12 of Action and implemented a campaign of maximum
13 economic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran,
14 which will continue until the regime—

15 (A) ends its nuclear program, its pursuit
16 of ballistic missiles, and its support of terrorism
17 and regional destabilization; and

18 (B) releases all United States hostages.

19 (4) The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Peo-
20 ple's Republic of China signed a 25-year strategic
21 economic cooperation agreement on March 27, 2021.
22 The relationship between the 2 countries is a stra-
23 tegic partnership that aims to advance the influence
24 of the People's Republic of China in the Middle
25 East.

1 (5) The strategic economic cooperation agree-
2 ment involves a transfer of \$400,000,000,000 from
3 the Chinese Communist Party to the Government of
4 the Islamic Republic of Iran.

5 (6) The Chinese Communist Party is commit-
6 ting an ongoing genocide against Uyghur Muslims in
7 the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and sup-
8 pressing religious freedom throughout the People's
9 Republic of China.

10 (7) The Chinese Communist Party is sup-
11 pressing religious freedom by arbitrarily imprisoning
12 Christians, raiding house churches, and attempting
13 to shut down houses of worship not endorsed by the
14 Government of the People's Republic of China.

15 (8) The Government of the Islamic Republic of
16 Iran annually funds \$100,000,000 to the terrorist
17 organization Hamas to continue their mission of
18 jihad against the people of Israel.

19 (9) The United States Government—

20 (A) unequivocally condemns the terrorist
21 attacks incited by and originating from Israeli
22 land currently occupied by Hamas; and

23 (B) recognizes the right of Israel to defend
24 itself from terrorist attacks incited by Hamas.

1 (10) The Government of the Islamic Republic of
2 Iran is complicit in the October 7, 2023, terrorist
3 attack against the people of Israel. By openly meet-
4 ing with senior leaders of Hamas after the terrorist
5 attack, the Government of the Islamic Republic of
6 Iran has publicly recognized their involvement such
7 Hamas-led terrorist attack.

8 (11) The Government of the Islamic Republic of
9 Iran is—

10 (A) perpetrating violence against its own
11 people, including through the killing of pro-
12 testers and the persecution of women and reli-
13 gious minorities; and

14 (B) involved in severe violations of human
15 rights throughout the Middle East, including by
16 supporting the brutal regime of Bashar al-
17 Assad in Syria.

18 (12) Since 2021, the People’s Republic of China
19 has increased illicit oil purchases from the Islamic
20 Republic of Iran. Such oil purchases would be per-
21 mitted if the United States lifts sanctions with re-
22 spect to Islamic Republic of Iran and re-enters the
23 failed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The Peo-
24 ple’s Republic of China remains the largest oil cus-
25 tomer of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

1 (13) A portion of the oil that the People’s Re-
2 public of China buys from the Islamic Republic of
3 Iran and other suppliers is potentially being trans-
4 shipped to the Democratic People’s Republic of
5 Korea.

6 (14) The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
7 required that the United Nations arms embargo on
8 the Islamic Republic of Iran expire in October 2020,
9 which would have permitted the People’s Republic of
10 China to sell arms to the Islamic Republic of Iran
11 and vice versa.

12 (15) President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., has
13 sought to rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of
14 Action or a similar agreement, including by under-
15 taking talks with the Government of the Islamic Re-
16 public of Iran and the other parties to the Joint
17 Comprehensive Plan of Action.

18 (16) Officials in the administration of President
19 Biden have acknowledged that rejoining a nuclear
20 agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran would
21 entail an easing of the economic sanctions stipulated
22 by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

1 **SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ANY IRAN NU-**
2 **CLEAR AGREEMENT.**

3 (a) LIMITATIONS PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO NEGO-
4 TIATIONS.—No Federal funds may be obligated or ex-
5 pended to enter into any negotiation with the Government
6 of the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to an Iran
7 nuclear agreement until the President certifies to Con-
8 gress that—

9 (1) the Government of the Islamic Republic of
10 Iran has terminated—

11 (A) all agreements involving the transfer of
12 funds to such Government from the People’s
13 Republic of China; and

14 (B) all agreements involving a strategic
15 military or security partnership with the Peo-
16 ple’s Republic of China;

17 (2) the Government of the People’s Republic of
18 China has ceased to incarcerate Uyghur individuals
19 in concentration camps in the Xinjiang Uyghur Au-
20 tonomous Region;

21 (3) the Government of the Islamic Republic of
22 Iran has terminated all ties and transfers of cash to
23 Iranian proxy forces, including Hamas; and

24 (4) the Government of the Islamic Republic of
25 Iran has verified the destruction of any and all
26 chemical weapons, materials, and infrastructure.

1 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR CONTENTS OF AGREE-
2 MENT.—No Federal funds may be obligated or expended
3 for United States entry into any Iran nuclear agreement,
4 and the President may not take any action (including in
5 the form of an agenda, agreement, platform, or plan) to
6 carry out the goals of such an agreement, unless such
7 agreement certifies the destruction of any and all Iranian
8 nuclear and missile capabilities, weapons, infrastructure,
9 chemical weapons, and offensive cyber activity.

10 (c) RATIFICATION REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any
11 other provision of law, any Iran nuclear agreement shall
12 be deemed a treaty subject to the requirement that the
13 Senate provide its advice and consent pursuant to article
14 II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United
15 States. The President may not take any action (including
16 in the form of an agenda, agreement, platform, or plan)
17 to carry out the goals of such an agreement until the Sen-
18 ate has adopted a resolution of advice and consent with
19 respect to that agreement.

20 (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State
21 shall submit to Congress, prior to the submission of a pro-
22 posed Iran nuclear agreement to the Senate for its advice
23 and consent in accordance with subsection (c), a report
24 setting forth the manner and extent to which the negotia-
25 tion and terms of such proposed Iran nuclear agreement

1 comply with each limitation and requirement under this
2 section.

3 (e) IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT DEFINED.—In this
4 section, the term “Iran nuclear agreement” means—

5 (1) the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action,
6 signed at Vienna July 14, 2015, by the Islamic Re-
7 public of Iran and by the People’s Republic of
8 China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation,
9 the United Kingdom, and the United States, with
10 the High Representative of the European Union for
11 Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and all imple-
12 menting materials and agreements related to the
13 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; and

14 (2) any successor or other agreement exchang-
15 ing relief from international sanctions for restric-
16 tions on the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic
17 of Iran.

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