



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 23, 2026
(Senate)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

S.J. Res. 180 – Directing the Removal of United States Armed Forces from
Hostilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran
(Sen. Van Hollen, D-MD, and 9 cosponsors)

The Administration strongly opposes passage of S.J. Res. 180, a resolution that purports to direct the removal of U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

During the ceasefire that began on April 7, 2026, the Administration engaged in productive, good-faith efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution to Iran's malign behavior and to end its threat to the United States and our allies and partners. These efforts led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Iran on June 17, 2026.

The MOU requires the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to “make arrangements using its best efforts for the safe passage of commercial vessels ... from the Persian Gulf to the Seas of Oman.” Despite this commitment, Iran has attacked several neutral-flagged commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz since July 6, 2026, and continues to commit these acts of terrorism. At the President’s direction, U.S. Armed Forces responded, commencing on July 7, 2026, with strikes against targets within Iran, including missile launch sites, air defenses, military maritime assets, military support infrastructure, and command and control capabilities. In response to Iran’s ongoing aggression, U.S. Armed Forces continue to be engaged in operations to address threats to U.S. personnel and our allies and partners in the region. These operations respond to Iran’s acts of terrorism, which are wholly inconsistent with the MOU, and are distinct and separate from prior operations.

For decades, Iran has supported terrorism and pursued policies that have threatened U.S. personnel and interests and undermined regional stability, including through support to armed proxy groups, direct attacks and attacks through proxies and partners, and development of advanced missile capabilities. For example, the regime’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its partners and proxies have attacked U.S. personnel and facilities in Syria and Iraq more than one hundred and fifty times since 2021.

Since June 2025, the regime has also massively expanded its ballistic missile production for the purpose of overwhelming regional air defenses in order to provide a shield for its efforts to reconstitute its nuclear program, which it refuses to relinquish. Iran’s nuclear activities, including enrichment beyond levels consistent with exclusively peaceful purposes and its

limits on International Atomic Energy Agency monitoring remain a serious concern. These challenges underscore the need for the President to retain the flexibility and authorities necessary to protect U.S. forces, deter escalation, respond to acts of terrorism, and advance U.S. interests in the Middle East, including through diplomacy backed by credible deterrence.

Congress has repeatedly affirmed the bipartisan Executive Branch commitment to preventing the Iranian regime from developing or acquiring a nuclear weapon. A nuclear-armed Iran would pose an unacceptable and urgent threat to the U.S. homeland and to U.S. military personnel deployed across the Middle East: it would embolden the regime's aggression against U.S. allies and partners, enable the regime to escalate terrorism under a nuclear umbrella, trigger a regional arms race, and potentially lead to a nuclear exchange.

The President has the Constitutional authority to defend the United States and our citizens from the danger posed by the Iranian regime. This requires the ability to act decisively to ensure it never obtains a nuclear weapon. Further, protecting U.S. forces and interests requires the President to respond to Iranian aggression given the ongoing international armed conflict with Iran. The President needs to have the flexibility to take action necessary to disrupt attack preparations that threaten U.S. forces or interests. S.J. Res. 180 should be rejected because it attempts to disrupt the President's ability to protect United States diplomats, armed forces, allies, and partners, including Israel, from the continued threat posed by Iran and its proxies within the context of escalating attacks that have resulted in U.S. casualties.

The joint resolution attempts to legislate away essential Article II authority and would create immediate, material risks to U.S. forces, allies, and missions. In addition, the broad scope of the resolution risks creating uncertainty and operational paralysis in a crisis, while emboldening the Iranian regime and undermining the United States's ability to speak with one voice in the midst of an active conflict.

If S.J. Res. 180 were to be presented to the President, his advisors would recommend that he veto it.

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