



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

February 10, 2014

Chairman Patrick Leahy
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations and Related
Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Lindsey Graham
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations and Related
Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Graham,

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) strongly believes that a nuclear Iran represents the most pressing threat to the national security of the United States. While the interim deal negotiated between Iran and the P5+1 nations in Geneva is an important first step towards arresting Iran's progress towards nuclear weapons capability, it is clear that much work remains to be done.

A prerequisite for engaging in continued negotiations with Iran, however, must be international confidence that it is complying with the terms of the interim deal. It is significant, therefore, that Iran has agreed to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect more frequently Iran's uranium enrichment plants at Fordow and Natanz, as well as providing greater access to other parts of its nuclear program, including its heavy-water production plant in Arak. Given Iran's history of hiding and obfuscating its nuclear work and intentions it is critical that the IAEA makes full use of this enhanced access. That is why we were troubled by recent comments from IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano expressing concerns that the IAEA may lack the necessary funds to sufficiently oversee the Iranian facilities.

We must maintain our vigilance on Iran. Naturally, increased access to nuclear facilities will demand more resources from the IAEA's nuclear verification budget. We believe IAEA member states, such as the United States, should adjust their annual contributions to reflect this increased workload. As you begin work on the FY2015 appropriations bill for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, I encourage you to increase funding for the IAEA's nuclear verification budget to ensure full and robust international inspections in order to maintain pressure on Iran. I thank you for your continued attention to this important issue.

Very Truly Yours,

Blaise Misztal
Acting Director, Foreign Policy Project
Bipartisan Policy Center

CC: Leader Harry Reid, Leader Mitch McConnell, Members of the U.S. Senate