

Council resolution, but when the sanctions expire, it would open the door for Iran to advance its missile program by utilizing technologies more freely from around the world.

Upon expiration of the sanctions, Iranian leaders will immediately gain access to items it cannot easily acquire domestically, such as gyroscopes, sensors, and numerous other sophisticated components necessary for modern ballistic missiles. Upon securing these technologies from abroad, Iran could begin to reverse engineer them and begin domestic production as it has done in the past.

That is why, together with our allies, we must act. I applaud the European Union for telling Iran they plan to retain their own EU, European Union, ballistic missile sanctions set to expire in October. Today we want to send Iran the message that the United States intends to do the same.

That is why we are considering this bipartisan legislation introduced by Chairman MCCAUL that imposes mandatory property blocking and visa sanctions on anyone involved in the supply, sale, or transfer of or support for Iran's missiles and drones. The legislation also requires the executive branch to submit a report on the Iranian missiles and drones to Congress, specifically outlining their strategy to counter this menace.

Mr. Speaker, there is near-global consensus that Iran should not be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon or the missile that could help them carry one. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure. I thank Mr. MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman DEAN for her strong support of this measure and her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I reserve the right to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

The threat of Iranian missiles and drones is real. The clock is ticking, and Congress, the United States Government, and the world at large needs to act. This bill is an important measure to prevent Iran from being able to acquire more sophisticated technology as a result of the expiring sanctions.

I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for introducing this legislation, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Despite what you may hear about partisan divides, our committee, I think, stands apart. This bill to impose

sanctions on those doing business with Iran's missile and drone program was introduced by myself and Ranking Member MEEKS of the Foreign Affairs Committee. It passed our committee unanimously. It has over 225 cosponsors, with a mix of Republicans and Democrats.

Congress and the American people are keenly aware of the destructive power of Iran's drones, and we are absolutely committed to reining in this threat. We are united in delivering a bipartisan message to countries around the world: Do not buy or acquire Iranian drones and missiles. Do not associate yourself with the IRGC, Vladimir Putin, or Iran's terrorist proxies.

Putin and the Ayatollah may try to ramp up their military cooperation, but we will do everything in our power to stop them, and in doing so, safeguard free democracies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3152, the Fight CRIME Act.

This bill looks to impose sanctions with respect to countries, individuals, and entities that engage in any effort to acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or deploy Iranian missiles and related goods and technology.

For years, the Government of Iran has proven to be erratic and unpredictable.

With thousands of people being arbitrarily detained or unfairly prosecuted solely for peacefully exercising their human rights.

Women, people of the LGBTQ+ community, and people of ethnic and religious minority suffer intensified discrimination and violence in Iran.

We must impose visa- and property-blocking sanctions on foreign persons that are knowingly involved with Iran or Iran-aligned entities in certain missile-related activities.

This involves the acquiring, possessing, developing, transporting, transferring, or deploying missiles or related items and technology that are covered by the Missile Technology Control Regime, or developing missile or drone technologies.

We must also impose sanctions on certain adult family members of those who are subject to the sanctions previously mentioned.

Foreign persons who knowingly provide significant support to or engage in a significant transaction with those are also subject to the sanctions previously mentioned.

The bill also requires the Department of State to report to Congress on various topics, including a diplomatic strategy to renew international restrictions on certain missile-related activities.

The Government of Iran brought this upon themselves.

The many accounts of enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment are just some of many atrocities committed by the Iranian Government.

Similarly, the usage of the death penalty increased, and public executions resumed.

The people of Iran are tired of the regime forcing its unjust will on them.

In 2022 alone, more than 500 people were killed by the violent crackdown on protesting in Iran.

Additionally, more than 14,000 people were arrested, including protesters, journalists, lawyers, activists, artists, and athletes who voiced support for the freedom movement.

There are countless more stories and recollections as to why the Government of Iran should face these sanctions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3152, the Fight and Combat Rampant Iranian Missile Exports Act, and the limiting of the Iranian Government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3152, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1615

MAHSA AMINI HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 589) to impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 589

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mahsa Amini Human rights and Security Accountability Act" or the "MAHSA Act".

SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER'S OFFICE, ITS APPOINTEES, AND ANY AFFILIATED PERSONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Supreme Leader is an institution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(2) The Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority over Iran's judiciary and security apparatus, including the Ministry of Intelligence and Security, law enforcement forces under the Interior Ministry, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and the Basij, a nationwide volunteer paramilitary group subordinate to the IRGC, all of which have engaged in human rights abuses in Iran. Additionally the IRGC, a United States designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, which reports to the Supreme Leader, continues to perpetrate terrorism around the globe, including attempts to kill and kidnap American citizens on United States soil.

(3) The Supreme Leader appoints the head of Iran's judiciary. International observers continue to criticize the lack of independence of Iran's judicial system and maintained that trials disregarded international standards of fairness.

(4) The revolutionary courts, created by Iran's former Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini, within Iran's judiciary, are chiefly responsible

for hearing cases of political offenses, operate in parallel to Iran's criminal justice system and routinely hold grossly unfair trials without due process, handing down predetermined verdicts and rubberstamping executions for political purpose.

(5) The Iranian security and law enforcement forces engage in serious human rights abuse at the behest of the Supreme Leader.

(6) Iran's President, Ebrahim Raisi, sits at the helm of the most sanctioned cabinet in Iranian history which includes internationally sanctioned rights violators. Raisi has supported the recent crackdown on protestors and is a rights violator himself, having served on a "death commission" in 1988 that led to the execution of several thousand political prisoners in Iran. He most recently served as the head of Iran's judiciary, a position appointed by Iran's current Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and may likely be a potential candidate to replace Khamenei as Iran's next Supreme Leader.

(7) On September 16, 2022, a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, died in the detention of the Morality Police after being beaten and detained for allegedly transgressing discriminatory dress codes for women. This tragic incident triggered widespread, pro-women's rights, pro-democracy protests across all of Iran's 31 provinces, calling for the end to Iran's theocratic regime.

(8) In the course of the protests, the Iranian security forces' violent crackdown includes mass arrests, well documented beating of protestors, throttling of the internet and telecommunications services, and shooting protestors with live ammunition. Iranian security forces have reportedly killed hundreds of protestors and other civilians, including women and children, and wounded many more.

(9) Iran's Supreme Leader is the leader of the "Axis of Resistance", which is a network of Tehran's terror proxy and partner militias materially supported by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps that targets the United States as well as its allies and partners.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States shall stand with and support the people of Iran in their demand for fundamental human rights;

(2) the United States shall continue to hold the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the Supreme Leader and President, accountable for abuses of human rights, corruption, and export of terrorism; and

(3) Iran must immediately end its gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

(c) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DETERMINATION AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall—

(A) determine whether each foreign person described in subsection (d) meets the criteria for imposition of sanctions under one or more of the sanctions programs and authorities listed in paragraph (2);

(B) impose applicable sanctions against any foreign person determined to meet the criteria for imposition of sanctions pursuant to subparagraph (A) under the sanctions programs and authorities listed in subparagraph (A) or (F) of subsection (c)(2) and pursue applicable sanctions against any foreign person determined to meet the criteria for imposition of sanctions pursuant to subparagraph (A) under the sanctions programs and authorities listed in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of subsection (c)(2); and

(C) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report in unclassified form, with a classified annex provided separately if needed, containing—

(i) a list of all foreign persons described in subsection (d) that meet the criteria for imposition of sanctions under one or more of the sanctions programs and authorities listed in paragraph (2); and

(ii) for each foreign person identified pursuant to clause (i)—

(I) a list of each sanctions program or authority listed in paragraph (2) for which the person meets the criteria for imposition of sanctions;

(II) a statement which, if any, of the sanctions authorized by any of the sanctions programs and authorities identified pursuant to subclause (I) have been imposed or will be imposed within 30 days of the submission of the report; and

(III) with respect to which any of the sanctions authorized by any of the sanctions programs and authorities identified pursuant to subclause (I) have not been imposed and will not be imposed within 30 days of the submission of the report, the specific authority under which otherwise applicable sanctions are being waived, have otherwise been determined not to apply, or are not being imposed and a complete justification of the decision to waive or otherwise not apply the sanctions authorized by such sanctions programs and authorities.

(2) SANCTIONS LISTED.—The sanctions listed in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Sanctions described in section 105(c) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514(c)).

(B) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13553 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons with respect to serious human rights abuses by the Government of Iran).

(C) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

(D) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13818 (relating to blocking the property of persons involved in serious human rights abuse or corruption).

(E) Sanctions applicable with respect to a person pursuant to Executive Order 13876 (relating to imposing sanctions with respect to Iran).

(F) Penalties and visa bans applicable with respect to a person pursuant to section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2021.

(3) FORM OF DETERMINATION.—The determination required by paragraph (1) shall be provided in an unclassified form but may contain a classified annex provided separately containing additional contextual information pertaining to justification for the issuance of any waiver issued, as described in paragraph (1)(C)(ii). The unclassified portion of such determination shall be made available on a publicly available internet website of the Federal Government.

(d) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The foreign persons described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Supreme Leader of Iran and any official in the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran.

(2) The President of Iran and any official in the Office of the President of Iran or the President's cabinet, including cabinet ministers and executive vice presidents.

(3) Any entity, including foundations and economic conglomerates, overseen by the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran which is complicit in financing or resourcing of human rights abuses or support for terrorism.

(4) Any official of any entity owned or controlled by the Supreme Leader of Iran or the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran.

(5) Any person determined by the President—

(A) to be a person appointed by the Supreme Leader of Iran, the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran, the President of Iran, or the Office of the President of Iran to a position as a state official of Iran, or as the head of any entity located in Iran or any entity located outside of Iran that is owned or controlled by one or more entities in Iran;

(B) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological

support for, or goods or services to or in support of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2);

(C) to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2); or

(D) to be a member of the board of directors or a senior executive officer of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2).

(e) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving a request from the chairman and ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a foreign person meets the criteria of a person described in subsection (d)(5), the President shall—

(A) determine if the person meets such criteria; and

(B) submit an unclassified report, with a classified annex provided separately if needed, to such chairman and ranking member with respect to such determination that includes a statement of whether or not the President imposed or intends to impose sanctions with respect to the person pursuant to any sanctions program or authority listed in subsection (c)(2).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 3. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is found to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the application of that provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Iran has committed brutal human rights violations. This regime silences dissent and suppresses the truth, and those who dare speak out face severe consequences, including death.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini was murdered by the Iranian regime, the so-called morality police, while in police custody. Iran's morality police had detained her for a false crime unthinkable to most of us here in this Chamber.

What was the crime?

It was failing to properly cover her hair.

The people of Iran were outraged by her brutal murder and by the range of injustices that the Ayatollah subjects Iranians to day in and day out. This outrage led the great people of Iran to rise up in peaceful protest, demanding change.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, the regime responded with a violent crackdown against the protesters. They detained tens of thousands of their own citizens and killed hundreds more. The regime choked off access to the outside world by blocking the internet. Disturbingly, violence and isolation are how they deny their own people their freedom and their voice.

The international community has failed the people of Iran by failing to compel their oppressors to stop this abuse. We have many sanctions laws designed to address the Iranian regime's human rights violations. However, it is clear that many officials and institutions in Iran have not yet been sanctioned for their role in these abuses. That is why it is so important that we pass this bipartisan bill that was authored and introduced by Representative BANKS from Indiana.

We must require the President to formally determine whether specific high-ranking regime officials and institutions meet the criteria for imposition of our sanctions and then act based on those determinations.

The Biden administration has its own political agenda when it comes to Iran. This administration wants to broker a bad nuclear agreement with Iran and has made it clear that it is willing to sacrifice leverage in the form of sanctions enforcement to do so.

My longstanding concerns only grew when we learned that the administration's chief negotiator, Rob Malley, was being investigated for problems with his security clearance. This administration must be transparent about these allegations and how they have impacted the last 2 years of Iran's policy.

To the administration, I say this: We must not sell out the Iranian people to reach a bad nuclear deal with Iran.

A nuclear Iran is simply not acceptable. We must fully enforce the laws on the books that we have in order to stop the grotesque human rights violations taking place in Iran.

That is why as we approach the 1-year anniversary of Mahsa Amini's tragic death—it is so fitting that we do it here in this Chamber this week—Congress must show the world that we have not forgotten Mahsa or the millions of Iranians who have experienced violence, oppression, and even death at the hands of the regime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous support for this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, I am writing with respect to H.R. 589, the "Mahsa Amini

Human rights and Security Accountability Act." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions on which the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest, I will not request a sequential referral on this measure.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 589.

Sincerely,

JASON SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2023.

Hon. JASON SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding his legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, I write regarding H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act. Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 589 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, May 31, 2023.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Financial Services regarding H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act. I agree that the Committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 589 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved on this or similar legislation as it moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to see appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any conference with the Senate involving this or similar legislation, and we request your support for any such request.

Finally, as you mentioned in your letter, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this bill be included in your Committee's report to accompany the legislation, as well as in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, February 9, 2023.

HON. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCHENRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will place our letters on H.R. 589 into our committee report on this bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL
Chairman.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is no debate in Congress about the nature of the Iranian Government. The Supreme Leader of Iran murders, tortures, and abuses his own people. He denies Iranian citizens freedom and democracy. He guides proxy forces meant to destabilize numerous regional countries. He has threatened to wipe Israel off the map, and he is developing a nuclear program that has stockpiled enough highly enriched uranium for several nuclear warheads. I believe there must be costs associated with this behavior, and the United States is delivering those costs.

The Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act, or the MAHSA Act, is a bill that would require the President of the United States to determine whether high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic regime in Iran should be listed under existing U.S. sanctions for human rights abuses and support of terrorism. If an Iranian person or entity is found to meet these criteria, the legislation strongly encourages the executive branch to sanction that person or entity to the fullest extent of the law.

Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats understand the despicable nature of Iran's Supreme Leader and his regime and the need to hold them accountable. The Supreme Leader is currently sanctioned under executive order 13876 which blocks the property of the Supreme Leader and his office, as well as persons determined to have provided material support to the Supreme Leader or his office.

As of April 20, 2023, 112 persons have been designated for sanctions pursuant to this order—75 entities, 36 individuals, and one vessel.

Some of these designations were made by the Trump administration,

and some have been made by the Biden administration. The Supreme Leader is fully cut off from the American financial system and is not allowed to travel to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that other prominent Iranian leaders currently under strict American sanctions include President Raisi, two of Iran's vice presidents, and seven cabinet ministers, including the Ministers of Communication, Culture, Defense, Intelligence, Interior, and Petroleum. Companies and subsidiaries tied to the Supreme Leader in the sectors of energy, textiles, mining, chemicals, and financial services are all under strict sanctions.

Let me be clear: there are more sanctions on the Supreme Leader and his cronies today than there were 1½ years ago. Applying maximum pressure on the Supreme Leader is an entirely bipartisan priority. We must always do more. Enforcement can be tighter. Legislation with transparency mechanisms such as the MAHSA Act provide value to the Congress and our Iran policy oversight efforts.

During committee consideration of the MAHSA Act, I voted to move the bill to the floor despite having reservations that the text as currently drafted could damage national security waivers found in the underlying statute. Though the bill improved throughout the negotiations process with the majority, an amendment was offered, which was adopted over the committee Democrats' objections, that undermines some of the progress we achieved before markup.

During a future conference process with the Senate, we want to assure this legislative text will not harm any President's ability to adjust any potential national security event vis-a-vis Iran, including addressing the nuclear issue. We also hope to streamline the reporting requirements to make them feasible for OFAC and the Treasury Department to deliver to Congress.

We look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner on crafting a final bill that continues to put pressure on the Supreme Leader of Iran and those who support his nefarious efforts. In the meantime, I will vote to advance the current draft from the House in order to prepare for negotiations with the Senate.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this issue and so many other issues related to our foreign policy and national security.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today in support of the passage of my bill, the MAHSA Act. As the chairman said, this bill is named in honor of

Mahsa Amini, a young woman in Iran who was killed by the Iranian regime nearly almost exactly 1 year ago this week.

Mahsa died after being snatched off the street and brutally beaten by a patrol of the regime's so-called morality police all because she was not wearing her headscarf correctly in public.

Mahsa's murder triggered months of the largest prodemocracy and anti-regime protests in Iran since the 1979 revolution. Iranians called for freedom and chanted "death to the dictator." Iranian women cast off their hijabs and burnt them in protest. They shook the regime to its core and showed the world that the Iranian people despise the Iranian regime. They will no longer tolerate its human rights abuses, corruption, and squandering of their wealth on terrorism.

Nevertheless, the Biden administration refused to take real action in support of the protesters last year and has been looking the other way ever since.

This administration is too afraid to jeopardize their dream of a new nuclear deal with Iran, so it is up to Congress to act instead. That is what we are doing here today.

The MAHSA Act will hold the most malicious elements of Iran's regime accountable while avoiding collateral damage on ordinary Iranians. My bill will require the administration to actually enforce sanctions on the books and to go after Mahsa's killers and funders of terrorism, including the Supreme Leader of Iran and senior regime officials and their money laundering organizations.

I thank all of those from both parties who made this bipartisan legislation possible and to become a reality today. More importantly, I thank all those Iranian-American groups here at home who showed their Representatives how important it is to stand in support of the Iranian people and to finally take action to hold this brutal regime accountable.

I call upon the Senate to immediately take up and pass the MAHSA Act, and I call upon President Biden to stop dragging his feet, listen to the Iranian people, and confront the Iranian regime once and for all.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1 year since the death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, in Iran, and it has been 1 year during which revulsion to repression has given birth to so many courageous Iranians expressing their defiance of arbitrary restrictions on their freedom.

Nevertheless, it has also been another year of torture and murder at the hands of a fanatical tyranny. With approval of this legislation named for Mahsa, we say to Iranians: "Your voices are heard, your voices are important, and you are not forgotten."

While the type of military action against Iran urged by fanatics outside

of Iran would be disastrous and counterproductive, through this act we seek to use all other available means to hold accountable the cruel repressors in Tehran.

Those of us who are progressives, opposing any war against Iran, are equally opposed to the Iran war that the government is currently carrying out against its own children. We share the battle cry of peaceful Iranian protesters: Woman, life, freedom.

This bill has little to do with the Iran nuclear agreement, which was wisely negotiated by President Obama's administration and our European allies. The world is less safe today not because of that agreement but because of President Trump's unilateral cancellation of the agreement presenting us today with an Iran that is nearer the development of a nuclear weapon than it was prior to the agreement.

We need to be seeking to do everything we can to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon short of war; but our desire for a safer world should not impair our willingness to do more to make Iran safer for its own citizens.

As Amnesty International reported just this past month, Iranian authorities have been subjecting victims' families to arbitrary arrest and detention, imposing restrictions on peaceful gatherings at gravesites, and even destroying victims' grave markers, and now within the last few days, detaining Mahsa's uncle so that he cannot speak out this Saturday on the anniversary of her murder.

Already this year, the Iranian Government has executed 320 people, doubling the rate prior to Mahsa's death, and giving Iran the wretched distinction of the highest number of executions per capita in the entire world.

Building upon current, existing executive orders, this bill proposes to codify existing sanctions targeting those at the top of the Iranian regime for their human rights abuses and for this egregious action over the last year.

Nevertheless, the attacks on President Biden really are misplaced if this is to be a truly bipartisan initiative. I believe that passage of the MAHSA Act sends a message to Iranians not about this administration, but of the fact that we, the elected Members of the people of the United States, oppose these abuses.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, passage of this act is not about what this administration has or has not done, but that it reflects the broad determination of this body, the Congress, the Representatives of the people of the United States, to speak out against a

brutal theocracy. We stand with Iranians who seek a brighter future where the rule of law and freedom are respected, and hopefully one day there will be an end to the terrible division between our two countries.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of this measure as it is crucial that we continue to pressure the Supreme Leader of Iran and his cronies and enablers, but I look forward to further refining the text with our Senate colleagues to make this the best bill possible.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that I join Chairman MCCAUL and Representative DOGGETT in acknowledging that it has been nearly 1 year since the tragic death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini. We will always remember her global impact not just for the girls and women of Iran, but for girls and women all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Ranking Member MEEKS, Congresswoman MADELEINE DEAN, and Congressman LLOYD DOGGETT for their work on this bill. I also thank Representative BANKS for leading this important bipartisan measure to ensure the United States upholds its moral responsibility as a beacon of freedom in human rights.

This bill does not create any new sanctions programs. The tools we are discussing here today already exist. We are simply asking the administration to enforce them. We must do everything we can to stand with the people of Iran and prevent more violence and suffering.

I feel for Mahsa's family, seeing her being beaten, tortured, and put to death for the so-called crime of merely not wearing her hijab correctly is really unfathomable to Americans and our way of life in a free society, and it cannot stand.

I look forward to a day when the Ayatollah is out of power and the people of Iran can be free to express themselves without this kind of oppression and tyranny. I know it will happen one day, and I hope it happens in my lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this legislation to stand with those advocating for human rights in Iran however I have concerns that the legislation could prohibit the President's ability to adjust sanctions as national security conditions warrant. I am hopeful this is the last time that Congress puts forward a sanctions bill without a clear mechanism to remove them as needed.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 589, the Mahsa Amini

Human Rights Security Accountability (MAHSA) Act.

This bill would require the President of the United States to impose property- and visa-blocking sanctions on certain individuals and entities affiliated with Iran.

Additionally, this bill would impose requirements that the President periodically make determinations about whether certain existing sanctions apply to specified persons and impose the applicable sanctions, including determinations concerning:

(1) the Supreme Leader of Iran and any official in the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran;

(2) the President of Iran and any official in the Office of the President of Iran; and

(3) any entity overseen by the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran which is complicit in supporting human rights abuses or terrorism.

Iran currently faces widespread unrest because of various human rights violations.

In 2022, security forces killed more than 500 persons, including at least 69 children, and arrested more than 19,000 protesters, including children, according to the nongovernmental organization Human Rights Activists News Agency.

Some of those arrested faced the death penalty, including children.

The government also routinely disrupted access to the internet and communications applications to prevent the free flow of information and to attempt to interrupt or diminish participation in protests.

Although the human rights violations in Iran are unacceptable and certainly condemnable and actionable in response, to address this matter in the manner set forth by this bill is concerning.

First, this bill and its text targets the Iran government itself, not individuals in the government.

Because of this, this bill would essentially remain in effect indefinitely, regardless of a change in leadership and political or social agenda.

Iran and its people deserve peace, not additional hardships.

Instead of implementing this act, Congress should investigate the sanctions that are already in place on the Iranian leadership and could consider amending those sanctions.

This bill has been built on positive intentions that seek to solve an important and pressing issue.

However, I think it would benefit us to reexamine already existing sanctions on Iranian leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 589, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF THE BAHAI MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 492) condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. RES. 492

Whereas in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith;

Whereas, since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, and more than 10,000 Baha'is have been dismissed from government and university jobs;

Whereas June 18, 2023, marks the 40th anniversary of the execution of 10 Baha'i women by the Iranian Government each witnessing the hanging of those hanged before her in a final failed attempt to induce abandonment of their faith after over 6 months of imprisonment and violent abuse, with the youngest only 17 years old;

Whereas, on December 15, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/C.3/77/L.34) criticizing Iran for human rights abuses and calling on Iran to carry out wide-ranging reforms, including—

(1) to end its "continuing disregard for protections under Iranian law or internationally recognized safeguards relating to the imposition of the death penalty" and "to commute the sentences for child offenders on death row";

(2) "to ensure, in law and in practice, that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment";

(3) "to cease the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary arrests and detention";

(4) "to release persons detained for the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms";

(5) "to address the poor conditions of prisoners";

(6) "to eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of systemic discrimination and other human rights violations against women and girls";

(7) to cease the "increased harassment, intimidation, persecution, arbitrary arrest and detention of, and incitement to hatred that leads to violence against, persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, including Christians (particularly converts from Islam), Gonabadi Dervishes, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Yarsanis, Zoroastrians, and, in particular, Baha'is, who have been subjected to a sudden increase in persecution, who have faced increasing restrictions and systemic persecution by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on account of their faith and

have been reportedly subjected to mass arrests and lengthy prison sentences, as well as the arrest of prominent members and increased confiscation and destruction of property"; and

(8) "to release all religious practitioners imprisoned for their membership in or activities on behalf of a minority religious group, to cease the desecration of cemeteries and to ensure that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief";

Whereas, in the 2023 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom issued in April 2023, it is reported that—

(1) the Government of Iran "escalated its persecution of Baha'is, conducting nationwide arrests and spreading propaganda against the group";

(2) in February [2022], Judge Mohammadghasem Ain al-Kamali of Branch 1 of the Semnan Revolutionary Court ruled that [the parastatal entity known as] the Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order (EIKO) could legally confiscate the property of Baha'is . . . Branch 54 of the Tehran Appeals Court upheld the decision in August following the destruction of six Baha'i houses in Rooshankooch;

(3) government officials arrested 14 Baha'is during a religious study in Ghaemshahr; and

(4) the Government of Iran "continued its systematic campaign of Baha'i arrests" throughout the latter part of 2022;

Whereas, in response to a surge in persecution in June and July 2022, involving the subjection of over 100 Baha'is to arrests, arraignments, sentencings, and raids on their homes and businesses across Iran, including the sentencing in June of 26 individuals in the city of Shiraz to a combined total of 85 years in prison, the Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom issued a statement on August 2, 2022, indicating that "[a]mid a continued rise in arrests, sentences, and imprisonments, the U.S. urges Iran to halt its ongoing oppression of the Baha'i community and honor its international obligations to respect the right of all Iranians to freedom of religion or belief";

Whereas the Iran section of the Department of State's 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom issued in May 2023 provides, in part—

(1) "According to the Baha'i International Community (BIC), Amnesty International, multiple international news organizations, and the United Nations, in July and August, security forces in cities across the country conducted multiple raids of Baha'i homes, confiscated property deemed 'illegitimate wealth,' and arrested Baha'is in their homes or workplaces on unsubstantiated charges including 'causing intellectual and ideological insecurity in Muslim society.'";

(2) "In August, a group of UN human rights experts released a joint statement calling on the government to stop the increasing arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances of members of the Baha'i Faith and the destruction or confiscation of their properties in what the experts said 'bears all the signs of a policy of systematic persecution.'"; and

(3) "In their August 22 statement, the UN experts stated that as of April, more than 1,000 Baha'is awaited imprisonment, following their initial arrest and hearings.";

Whereas, on November 21, 2022, Ms. Mahvash Sabet and Ms. Fariba Kamalabadi, 2 former members of the disbanded informal 7-person leadership group of the Baha'is of Iran, who each served 10-year sentences from 2008 to 2018 and have been detained since July 31, 2022, in Evin prison, were sentenced to an additional 10 years in prison each after a summary trial lasting 1 hour; and on Feb-

ruary 10, 2023, another former member of the disbanded leadership group, Mr. Afif Naimi, who had also served a 10-year sentence from 2008 to 2018, was sentenced on February 10, 2023, to 7 years in prison, which he began to serve on April 29, 2023;

Whereas, on December 11, 2022, the Baha'i International Community organization reported that, "More than 320 Baha'is have been affected by individual acts of persecution since the arrest [on July 31, 2022] of Mahvash [Sabet] and Fariba [Kamalabadi]. Dozens were arrested at various points in Shiraz, across Mazandaran province, and elsewhere throughout the country. Homes owned by Baha'is in the village of Roshankouh were demolished. Government plans to tar the Baha'is through hate speech and propaganda were also exposed. And at least 90 Baha'is are currently in prison or subject to degrading ankle-band monitoring.";

Whereas, on April 21, 2023, the Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom issued a statement in a tweet indicating that, "[w]e are deeply concerned following the news of Mahvash Sabet's injuries sustained while in prison. No one should be punished for their faith. We call on Iranian authorities to make sure Mrs. Sabet receives medical attention immediately and release her.";

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals who are "responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009"; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority in Iran and the continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran—

(A) to immediately release the imprisoned or detained Baha'is and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(B) to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha'is; and

(C) to reverse state-imposed policies denying Baha'is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices;

(3) calls on the President and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights, and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses,