

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today regarding grave concerns about reports indicating that you will soon finalize negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and conclude an agreement related to Iran's nuclear program and reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, also known as the "Iran Nuclear Deal." Putting aside indications that this Administration will, in all likelihood, attempt to bypass the Senate's constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on treaties, reports have surfaced that you are strongly considering removing the Foreign Terrorist Organization designation from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in exchange for a "promise" of good behavior. Unfortunately, recent reporting leaves it still unclear as to your designation intentions.

Not only would this removal be wildly misguided, but it would betray our partners and allies in the region—particularly Israel and the Gulf states. These allies and partners already hold concerns that the United States is reducing its regional presence. The enactment of such a deal would provide the Iranian regime access to funds that it would use to destabilize the region through terrorist proxies. Now, these same allies and partners are wondering if this Administration may refuse to call a spade a spade—a terrorist organization a terrorist organization.

Moreover, the removal of this terrorist designation from an organization that continues to carry out acts of terror will undoubtedly show the world that the United States' terrorist designations are political tools that this Administration is willing to barter and trade whenever it suits its political goals.

When it comes to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the realities are grim. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is actively trying to kill U.S. politicians and public servants on U.S. soil—most notably, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is responsible for the deaths of more than 600 American troops in Iraq through the provision of lethal aid and improvised explosive devices to Iran-backed Shia militia groups. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is responsible for training and equipping Iran's regional proxies in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, and Yemen and is directly responsible for ongoing attacks against American troops, diplomats, and regional partners. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has shown no meaningful change in conduct and is actively engaging in terrorist activities.

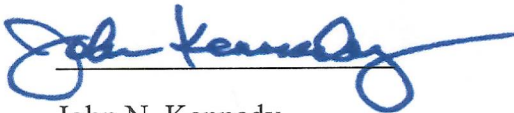
Given these facts, we request clear answers to the following questions:

- Is the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps a foreign terrorist organization?
- Is it your assessment that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps no longer engages in terrorist activity, or terrorism, or retains the capability and intent to engage in terrorist activity or terrorism?
- Does the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps no longer threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security of the United States?

Last month, during the State of the Union Address, you said these words, "*Now is the hour. Our moment of responsibility. Our test of resolve and conscience, of history itself. It is in this moment that our character is formed. Our purpose is found. Our future is forged.*"

We humbly request that you meet this test of resolve and conscience by publicly and categorically rejecting any discussion of delisting the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

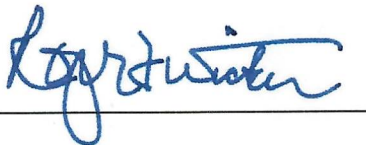
Sincerely,



John N. Kennedy
United States Senator



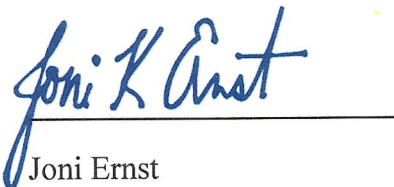
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Joni Ernst
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



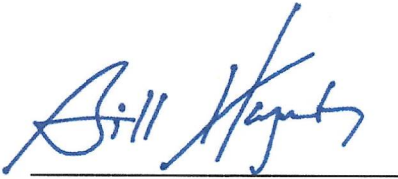
Tim Scott
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Bill Hagerty
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State