

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2466

To encourage democratic reform in Iran and to strengthen United States
policy toward the current Government of Iran.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2003

Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DEUTSCH, and Mr. ENGEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To encourage democratic reform in Iran and to strengthen
United States policy toward the current Government of Iran.

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 Freedom and De-
5 mocracy Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 (1) The Government of Iran is currently seek-
3 ing to develop nuclear weapons and other weapons
4 of mass destruction and has an active and successful
5 ballistic missile program.

6 (2) Recent revelations have shown that Iran is
7 further along than previously believed in enriching
8 uranium and developing nuclear weapons, and may
9 only be months away from developing the capability
10 to manufacture nuclear weapons.

11 (3) There is currently not a democratic govern-
12 ment in Iran. Iran is an ideological dictatorship pre-
13 sided over by an unelected “Supreme Leader” with
14 limitless veto power, an unelected Expediency Coun-
15 cil, a Council of Guardians capable of eviscerating
16 any reforms, and a President elected only after the
17 Council disqualified 234 other candidates for being
18 too liberal, reformist, or secular.

19 (4) The April 2003 Department of State report
20 on terrorism indicates that Iran remained the most
21 active state sponsor of terrorism in 2002.

22 (5) That report also states that Iran continues
23 to provide funding, safehaven, training, and weapons
24 to known terrorist groups, notably Hizballah,
25 HAMAS, the Palestine Islamic Jihad, and the Pop-
26 ular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

1 (6) Human rights have failed to improve in
2 Iran under the pseudo-reformers. Torture, execu-
3 tions after unfair trials, and censorship of all media
4 remain rampant throughout the country. Stoning
5 and beheading are used as methods of punishment.

6 (7) While the Government of Iran remains
7 overtly hostile to the United States, the people of
8 Iran have demonstrated that they wish for improved
9 relations with the United States.

10 (8) The people of Iran have demonstrated their
11 desire for a democratically-elected, more secular gov-
12 ernment, committed to protecting the human rights
13 of all of its citizens. The people of Iran have also
14 demonstrated their desire to see such changes come
15 about through an internationally-monitored ref-
16 erendum.

17 **SEC. 3. POLICY.**

18 It is the policy of the United States to—

19 (1) support transparent, full democracy in Iran;

20 (2) support an internationally-monitored ref-
21 erendum in Iran by which the Iranian people can
22 peacefully change the system of government in Iran;

23 (3) support the aspirations of the Iranian peo-
24 ple to live in freedom; and

1 (4) help the Iranian people achieve a free press
2 and build an open, democratic, and free society.

3 **SEC. 4. RADIO FARDA REFORM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Broadcasting Board of Gov-
5 ernors shall—

6 (1) require the head of Radio Farda to develop
7 programming for Radio Farda, after consulting
8 with—

9 (A) Iranian-Americans and other Iranian
10 exiles who—

11 (i) support a referendum described in
12 section 3(2); and

13 (ii) oppose the current Government of
14 Iran; and

15 (B) the Middle East Partnership Initiative
16 (MEPI) at the Department of State and the
17 Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
18 (ECA) at the Department of State; and

19 (2) ensure that a significant percentage of the
20 programming on Radio Farda is devoted to dis-
21 cussing democratic change in Iran including an
22 internationally-monitored democratic referendum in
23 Iran as described in section 3(2).

24 (b) TRANSLATIONS OF WRITTEN AND VIDEO MATE-
25 RIALS FOR THE IRANIAN PEOPLE.—

1 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The MEPI and ECA shall
2 provide grants to appropriate entities to create and
3 maintain websites, translate and distribute books,
4 videos, documents, and other materials on democ-
5 racy, rule of law free market economics, and related
6 topics.

7 (2) CONSULTATION.—The MEPI and ECA
8 shall consult with nongovernmental entities and with
9 Iranian-American opposition groups that support the
10 holding of an internationally-monitored referendum
11 in Iran as described in section 3(2) to select mate-
12 rials to be translated into Persian.

13 (c) IRAN DEMOCRACY SUPPORT INITIATIVE.—

14 (1) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of law, the MEPI and ECA are authorized
16 to award grants to an eligible entity for the purpose
17 of funding programs and activities to promote a
18 democratic referendum in Iran.

19 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The following persons
20 are eligible for grants under paragraph (1):

21 (A) A person who provides radio or tele-
22 vision broadcasting into Iran that includes pro-
23 gramming intended to promote an internation-
24 ally-monitored democratic referendum in Iran.

1 (B) A person who is working to promote
2 the holding of an internationally-monitored ref-
3 erendum in Iran, as described in section 3(2).

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Not-
5 withstanding any other provision of law, not less than 5
6 percent of the funds appropriated to the International
7 Broadcasting Operations account for fiscal year 2004
8 shall be made available to carry out the provisions of this
9 Act.

10 **SEC. 5. IMMEDIATELY ENDING THE UNITED STATES IMPOR-**
11 **TATION OF IRANIAN GOODS.**

12 Notwithstanding any other provision of law and ex-
13 cept as provided in section 6, no textile or food article that
14 is produced, grown, or manufactured in Iran shall enter
15 or be imported into the United States.

16 **SEC. 6. CONDITIONS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF UNITED**
17 **STATES IMPORTATION OF IRANIAN GOODS.**

18 The President may waive the prohibition on the im-
19 portation of Iranian goods to the United States beginning
20 on or after the date on which the President transmits to
21 Congress a certification stating that—

22 (1) Iran has shown substantial progress in re-
23 specting generally recognized human rights stand-
24 ards including due process under law;

1 (2) Iran has ceased its support for international
2 terrorism; and

3 (3) Iran has terminated its program to develop
4 nuclear weapons.

5 **SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO USAID.**

6 (a) **TRANSFER.**—If, beginning on or after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, an international financial
8 institution to which the United States is a member pro-
9 vides a loan, guarantee, grant, or other form of assistance
10 to Iran, then, notwithstanding any other provision of law,
11 an amount equal to the amount of such assistance may,
12 from amounts available for United States contributions to
13 the international financial institution involved, be made
14 available to the United States Agency for International
15 Development for programs to promote child survival and
16 to combat HIV/AIDS.

17 (b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—For purposes of sub-
18 section (a), the various international financial institutions
19 of the World Bank Group shall be considered to comprise
20 a single international financial institution.

21 (c) **TERMINATION.**—The authority of this section
22 shall terminate on the date on which the President trans-
23 mits to Congress a certification under section 6.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORTS ON AL QAEDA PRESENCE IN IRAN.**

2 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, and not later than 1 year thereafter,
4 the President shall transmit to Congress report on the
5 presence of elements of the al Qaeda terrorist organization
6 on the territory of Iran and the posture of the Government
7 of Iran toward these elements.

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