

section 6208a of this title \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026 to carry out the grant program authorized under this subsection.

**(B) Availability**

Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization in subparagraph (A) are authorized remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 118–159, div. E, title LI, §5124, Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2431.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

Section was enacted as part of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, and not as part of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 8755. Statement of policy on political prisoners**

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to support efforts to research and identify prisoners of conscience and cases of human rights abuses in Iran;

(2) to offer refugee status or political asylum in the United States to political dissidents in Iran if requested and consistent with the laws and national security interests of the United States;

(3) to offer to assist, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the relocation of such political prisoners to other countries if requested, as appropriate and with appropriate consideration for the national security interests of the United States; and

(4) to publicly call for the release of Iranian dissidents by name and raise awareness with respect to individual cases of Iranian dissidents and prisoners of conscience, as appropriate and if requested by the dissidents or prisoners themselves or their families.

(Pub. L. 112–158, title IV, §415, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1257.)

**§ 8756. Secretary of State assistance for prisoners in Islamic Republic of Iran**

**(a) Statement of policy**

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) the Islamic Republic of Iran should allow the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran unimpeded access to facilitate the full implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur, including—

(A) investigating alleged violations of human rights that are occurring or have occurred both within prisons and elsewhere;

(B) transmitting urgent appeals and letters to the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding alleged violations of human rights; and

(C) engaging with relevant stakeholders in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the surrounding region;

(2) the Islamic Republic of Iran should immediately end violations of the human rights of political prisoners or persons imprisoned for

exercising the right to freedom of speech, including—

(A) torture;

(B) denial of access to health care; and

(C) denial of a fair trial;

(3) all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran should be unconditionally and immediately released;

(4) all diplomatic tools of the United States should be invoked to ensure that all prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran are released, including raising individual cases of particular concern; and

(5) all officials of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran who are responsible for human rights abuses in the form of politically motivated imprisonment should be held to account, including through the imposition of sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) and other applicable statutory authorities of the United States.

**(b) Assistance for prisoners**

The Secretary of State is authorized to continue to provide assistance to civil society organizations that support prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including organizations that—

(1) work to secure the release of such prisoners;

(2) document violations of human rights with respect to such prisoners;

(3) support international advocacy to raise awareness of issues relating to such prisoners;

(4) support the health, including mental health, of such prisoners; and

(5) provide post-incarceration assistance to enable such prisoners to resume normal lives, including access to education, employment, or other forms of reparation.

**(c) Definitions**

In this section:

(1) The term “political prisoner” means a person who has been detained or imprisoned on politically motivated grounds.

(2) The term “prisoner of conscience” means a person who—

(A) is imprisoned or otherwise physically restricted solely in response to the peaceful exercise of the human rights of such person; and

(B) has not used violence or advocated violence or hatred.

(Pub. L. 117–263, div. E, title LV, §5592, Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 3384.)

**Editorial Notes**

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(5), is subtitle F (§§1261–1264) of title XII of div. A of Pub. L. 114–328, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2533, which is classified generally to chapter 108 (§10101 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 10101 of this title and Tables.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was enacted as part of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

2023, and not as part of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 which comprises this chapter.

#### SUBCHAPTER V—MISCELLANEOUS

### § 8771. Exclusion of citizens of Iran seeking education relating to the nuclear and energy sectors of Iran

#### (a) In general

The Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien who is a citizen of Iran that the Secretary of State determines seeks to enter the United States to participate in coursework at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001(a) of title 20) to prepare the alien for a career in the energy sector of Iran or in nuclear science or nuclear engineering or a related field in Iran.

#### (b) Applicability

Subsection (a) applies with respect to visa applications filed on or after August 10, 2012.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title V, § 501, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1258.)

#### TERMINATION OF SECTION

*For termination of section, see section 8785(a) of this title.*

### § 8772. Interests in certain financial assets of Iran

#### (a) Interests in blocked assets

##### (1) In general

Subject to paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any provision of law relating to sovereign immunity, and preempting any inconsistent provision of State law, a financial asset that is—

(A) held by or for a foreign securities intermediary doing business in the United States;

(B) a blocked asset (whether or not subsequently unblocked), or an asset that would be blocked if the asset were located in the United States, that is property described in subsection (b); and

(C) equal in value to a financial asset of Iran, including an asset of the central bank or monetary authority of the Government of Iran or any agency or instrumentality of that Government, that such foreign securities intermediary or a related intermediary holds abroad,

shall be subject to execution or attachment in aid of execution, or to an order directing that the asset be brought to the State in which the court is located and subsequently to execution or attachment in aid of execution, in order to satisfy any judgment to the extent of any compensatory damages awarded against Iran for damages for personal injury or death caused by an act of torture, extrajudicial killing, aircraft sabotage, or hostage-taking, or the provision of material support or resources for such an act, without regard to concerns relating to international comity.

##### (2) Court determination required

In order to ensure that Iran is held accountable for paying the judgments described in

paragraph (1) and in furtherance of the broader goals of this Act to sanction Iran, prior to an award turning over any asset pursuant to execution or attachment in aid of execution with respect to any judgments against Iran described in paragraph (1), the court shall determine whether Iran holds equitable title to, or the beneficial interest in, the assets described in subsection (b) and that no other person possesses a constitutionally protected interest in the assets described in subsection (b) under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. To the extent the court determines that a person other than Iran holds—

(A) equitable title to, or a beneficial interest in, the assets described in subsection (b) (excluding a custodial interest of a foreign securities intermediary or a related intermediary that holds the assets abroad for the benefit of Iran); or

(B) a constitutionally protected interest in the assets described in subsection (b),

such assets shall be available only for execution or attachment in aid of execution to the extent of Iran's equitable title or beneficial interest therein and to the extent such execution or attachment does not infringe upon such constitutionally protected interest.

#### (b) Financial assets described

The financial assets described in this section are the financial assets that are—

(1) identified in and the subject of proceedings in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in *Peterson et al. v. Islamic Republic of Iran et al.*, Case No. 10 Civ. 4518 (BSJ) (GWTG), that were restrained by restraining notices and levies secured by the plaintiffs in those proceedings, as modified by court order dated June 27, 2008, and extended by court orders dated June 23, 2009, May 10, 2010, and June 11, 2010, so long as such assets remain restrained by court order; and

(2) identified in and the subject of proceedings in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in *Peterson et al. v. Islamic Republic of Iran et al.*, Case No. 13 Civ. 9195 (LAP).

#### (c) Rules of construction

Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to affect the availability, or lack thereof, of a right to satisfy a judgment in any other action against a terrorist party in any proceedings other than proceedings referred to in subsection (b); or

(2) to apply to assets other than the assets described in subsection (b), or to preempt State law, including the Uniform Commercial Code, except as expressly provided in subsection (a)(1).

#### (d) Definitions

In this section:

##### (1) Blocked asset

The term “blocked asset”—

(A) means any asset seized or frozen by the United States under section 4305(b) of title 50 or under section 202 or 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 and 1702); and