

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5006

To encourage respect for the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in Iran, and to deter Iran from supporting international terrorism, and from furthering its weapons of mass destruction programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2000

Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. LAZIO, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. KING, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FROST, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. LOWEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, 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 respect for the rights of religious and ethnic minorities in Iran, and to deter Iran from supporting international terrorism, and from furthering its weapons of mass destruction programs.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) According to the Report of the National
2 Commission on Terrorism released in June 2000,
3 pursuant to Public Law 105–277, “Iran remains the
4 most active state supporter of terrorism. Despite the
5 election of reformist President Khatami in 1997, the
6 Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and Ministry of
7 Intelligence and Security have continued to be in-
8 volved in the planning and execution of terrorist
9 acts.”.

10 (2) According to the Central Intelligence Agen-
11 cy’s most recent proliferation report, pursuant to
12 section 721 of the Fiscal Year 1997 Intelligence Au-
13 thorization Act, “Iran remains one of the most ac-
14 tive countries seeking to acquire Weapons of Mass
15 Destruction (WMD) and Advanced Conventional
16 Weapons (ACW) technology from abroad. In so
17 doing, Iran is attempting to develop an indigenous
18 capability to produce various types of weapons—nu-
19 clear, chemical, and biological and their delivery sys-
20 tems.”.

21 (3) On July 16, 2000, Iran successfully test-
22 fired its Shahab-3 missile, a medium-range weapon
23 capable of delivering a nuclear, biological, and chem-
24 ical payload.

1 (4) Iran’s recent trial and conviction of 10 Ira-
2 nian Jews accused of spying on behalf of Israel was
3 only the most recent example of Iran’s egregious
4 mistreatment of minorities and brazen violations of
5 international human rights standards and due proc-
6 ess of law.

7 (5) Prior to the verdict, United States Sec-
8 retary of State Madeleine K. Albright referred to the
9 treatment of the Jews on trial in Iran as “a critical
10 barometer of United States-Iran relations”.

11 (6) In March 2000, the President of the United
12 States partially lifted an import ban to permit the
13 importation of Iranian textiles and food products,
14 such as carpets, dried fruits, nuts, and caviar, which
15 account for Iran’s second largest source of hard-cur-
16 rency earnings. This gesture was intended as good-
17 will efforts toward improving relations between the
18 United States and Iran.

19 (7) This gesture was premature since Iran has
20 not shown signs of respecting the rights of minori-
21 ties within Iran, has not ended its support for inter-
22 national terrorism, and has not terminated weapons
23 of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs.

1 **SEC. 2. IMMEDIATELY ENDING THE UNITED STATES IMPOR-**
2 **TATION OF IRANIAN GOODS.**

3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law and ex-
4 cept as provided in section 3, no textile or food article that
5 is produced, grown, or manufactured in Iran shall enter
6 or be imported into the United States.

7 **SEC. 3. CONDITIONS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF UNITED**
8 **STATES IMPORTATION OF IRANIAN GOODS.**

9 (a) GENERAL WAIVER.—Except as provided in sub-
10 section (b), the President may waive the prohibition on
11 the importation of Iranian goods to the United States 90
12 days after submitting a certification to the Committee on
13 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on
14 International Relations of the House of Representatives
15 stating that—

16 (1) Iran has shown substantial progress in re-
17 specting the rights of ethnic and religious minorities
18 and is meeting internationally recognized human
19 rights standards including due process under law;

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

22 (3) Iran has terminated its weapons of mass
23 destruction and ballistic missile programs.

24 (b) NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST WAIVER.—If the
25 President determines that it is in the national security in-
26 terests of the United States to do so, the President may

- 1 waive the prohibition on the importation of Iranian goods
- 2 90 days after submitting a certification to the congres-
- 3 sional committees described in subsection (a) stating that
- 4 Iran meets the requirements of subsection (a)(1).

