

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 334

To provide for the appointment of a high-level United States representative or special envoy for Iran for the purpose of easing tensions and normalizing relations between the United States and Iran.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2009

Ms. LEE of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the appointment of a high-level United States representative or special envoy for Iran for the purpose of easing tensions and normalizing relations between the United States and 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 Diplomatic Ac-
5 countability Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On December 3, 2007, the National Intel-
2 ligence Estimate, representing the consensus view of
3 16 intelligence agencies, concluded that Iran had
4 once had a covert nuclear weapons program.

5 (2) The National Intelligence Estimate also
6 found that Iran had halted its covert nuclear weap-
7 ons program in 2003 and that this program remains
8 frozen.

9 (3) The NIE concluded that Iran’s leadership
10 was quite sensitive to international views and wanted
11 to avoid international confrontation and made a
12 “cost-benefit” decision regarding whether or not to
13 have such a program.

14 (4) Serious concerns still remain about the Gov-
15 ernment of Iran’s intentions and behavior with re-
16 spect to the development of nuclear weapons, espe-
17 cially regarding its fuel enrichment program and the
18 speed with which it might reconstitute its suspended
19 nuclear weapons program.

20 (5) Hostile official rhetoric exacerbates tensions
21 and reinforces misunderstandings and animus be-
22 tween the people of the United States and Iran.

23 (6) The United States should enlist the support
24 of all interested parties to the region, including the
25 IAEA, to establish a program to ensure that Iran’s

1 nuclear weapons program is terminated perma-
2 nently, that its nuclear energy program is brought
3 fully under IAEA inspection and control, and that
4 all diplomatic tools are utilized to achieve these ob-
5 jectives.

6 (7) A diplomatic solution that includes direct,
7 unconditional, bilateral, and comprehensive talks
8 with the Government of Iran is the only way to re-
9 solve long-standing tensions between the United
10 States and Iran.

11 **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT OF HIGH-LEVEL U.S. REPRESENTA-**
12 **TIVE OR SPECIAL ENVOY.**

13 (a) APPOINTMENT.—At the earliest possible date, the
14 President shall appoint a high-level United States rep-
15 resentative or special envoy for Iran.

16 (b) CRITERIA FOR APPOINTMENT.—The President
17 shall appoint an individual under subsection (a) on the
18 basis of the individual's knowledge and understanding of
19 the issues regarding Iran's nuclear program, experience
20 in conducting international negotiations, and ability to
21 conduct negotiations under subsection (c) with the respect
22 and trust of the parties involved in the negotiations.

23 (c) DUTIES.—The high-level United States represent-
24 ative or special envoy for Iran shall—

1 (1) seek to conduct direct, unconditional, bilat-
2 eral negotiations with Iran for the purpose of easing
3 tensions and normalizing relations between the
4 United States and Iran;

5 (2) consult with other countries and inter-
6 national organizations, including countries in the re-
7 gion, where appropriate and when necessary to
8 achieve the purpose set forth in paragraph (1);

9 (3) act as liaison with United States and inter-
10 national intelligence agencies where appropriate and
11 when necessary to achieve the purpose set for in
12 paragraph (1); and

13 (4) ensure that the bilateral negotiations under
14 paragraph (1) complement the ongoing international
15 negotiations with Iran.

16 **SEC. 4. OFFICE OF HIGH-LEVEL U.S. REPRESENTATIVE OR**
17 **SPECIAL ENVOY.**

18 Not later than 30 days after the appointment of a
19 high-level United States representative or special envoy
20 under section 3(a), the Secretary of State shall establish
21 in the Department of State an office for the purpose of
22 supporting the work of the representative or special envoy.

23 **SEC. 5. REPORTING TO CONGRESS.**

24 (a) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the
25 high-level United States representative or special envoy for

1 Iran is appointed under section 3, and every 180 days
2 thereafter, the United States representative or special
3 envoy shall report to the committees set forth in sub-
4 section (b) on the status and progress of negotiations con-
5 ducted under section 3(c). Each such report may, when
6 necessary or appropriate, be submitted in classified and
7 unclassified form.

8 (b) COMMITTEES.—The committees referred to in
9 subsection (a) are—

10 (1) the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-
11 mittee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed
12 Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on
13 Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

14 (2) the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-
15 mittee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on
16 Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intel-
17 ligence of the Senate.

18 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this Act such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal
21 years 2009 and 2010.

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