

Dear David Price,

We want to thank you for long-standing concern for US policy towards Iran and particularly for your co-sponsor of H.R. 5543, the No war Against Iran Act.

We would like to ask for your support for easing sanctions against Iran during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the last two weeks three important requests underscore this humanitarian need (letters attached):

- A letter from 25 U.S. organizations including the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation to President Trump, Secretary Pompeo, and Secretary Mnuchin;
- A call from the Iran Project and the European Leadership Council, signed by former US diplomats and European leaders, including Madeline Albright, Thomas Pickering, Paul O'Neill, and Thomas Shannon;
- A letter from 23 of your Congressional colleagues to Secretary Pompeo and Secretary Mnuchin.

All of these letters point out the need for *targeted sanctions relief* for a period of time until the coronavirus pandemic passes. Lifting specific sanctions for a limited period of time will not undermine ongoing US sanctions. Three immediate steps are of particular importance:

- Expanding the scope of humanitarian exemptions to include all devices and equipment necessary to effectively combat COVID-19. Currently, many forms of equipment, such as full-face respirators, require specific license approval from OFAC.
- Relaxing the stringent reporting requirements under the US-sponsored Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (STHA). The requirements are so strict that they discourage companies from using the STHA.
- Clarifying to European governments and businesses that using the European Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) for humanitarian trade with Iran will not result in US sanctions.

Targeted sanctions relief would be both morally right and serve the health and security interests of the United States and the world. A continued massive outbreak of COVID-19 in Iran will spread beyond its borders and endanger its Middle Eastern neighbors, particularly Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Gulf States and contribute to the global spread of the disease.

COVID-19 is a shared threat, requiring global solutions. We urge you to support any measures that will result in targeted sanctions relief for Iran for the good of us all. It may even open future doors for negotiation instead of the drumbeat towards war.

We understand that your office must be overwhelmed. If we can provide additional material or support for you or your staff to advocate for this relief, please let us know. In the meantime, we wish you and all your staff good health.

Signed by: