This week we

are experiencing Iran’s presidential

election. While the election is noteworthy,

it will probably not have an

impact on Iran’s illegal nuclear program.

Unlike in the United States, the

President of Iran has minimal influence

over the country’s national security

policies. Those decisions are controlled

by Supreme Leader Ayatollah

Ali Khomeini, the unelected head of

Iran’s theocratic regime.

The supreme leader has vowed to

continue Iran’s nuclear program, and

unfortunately we see evidence of this.

Just last Friday, the International

Atomic Energy Agency reported that

Iran has sped up production of nuclear

fuel and installed more centrifuges in

advance of the election. Nuclear weapons

experts say Iran now has enough

centrifuge capacity to fuel up to two

nuclear weapons a year.

Iran is determined to acquire nuclear

weapons regardless of who is president.

It would be a mistake for the Obama

administration and this Congress to

wait and see what direction Iran takes

if a new president is elected because

the course appears to be already determined.

If we are going to engage Iran,

we must do so right away, immediately,

and back engagement with

tougher actions.