

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 26, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing to express my grave concern about recent demands by Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and Iran's parliament rejecting critical elements of an agreement for a possible nuclear deal. If Iran insists on these redlines in negotiations, then I strongly urge you to suspend negotiations rather than accept a bad deal with Iran.

On June 23, 2015, Ayatollah Khamenei made a speech on Iranian state television in which he stated that "all financial and economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council, the U.S. Congress or the U.S. government should be lifted immediately when we sign a nuclear agreement," that "inspection of our military sites is out of the question and is one of our red lines," and that freezing Iranian research and development "for a long time, like 10 or 12 years, is not acceptable." Only days before, the Iranian parliament voted to ban access to military sites, documents and scientists as part of any future deal with the P5+1 countries.

These demands are unacceptable – they presuppose that the government of Iran will act in good faith, when it has shown itself in the past to be an untrustworthy negotiating partner. The Iranian regime had spent decades deceiving the international community, it stands in violation of its international commitments, and it continues to deny the International Atomic Energy Agency access to its facilities and answers to questions about its nuclear-related military activities.

Given Iran's past deceptions, the restrictions on Iran's nuclear program must not be lifted until the Iranian regime has demonstrably met their obligations under any prospective deal. Furthermore, significant limitations on research and development and resolution of military dimensions of Iran's program, through access to scientists, documents and places and anytime, anywhere inspections are critical to the viability of a nuclear agreement with Iran.

In the past, you have correctly stated with regards to the negotiations with Iran that "no deal is better than a bad deal." A deal that allows sanctions to be lifted before Iran's government meets their obligations, without intrusive inspections to safeguard against a continued covert nuclear program, and that leaves Iran as a threshold nuclear state, is a bad deal that threatens the national security of America and our allies, and must be rejected.

I ask that you clarify whether these newly-imposed Iranian conditions are understood to be objectives that must be met at the P5+1 negotiations for any agreement to be achieved. If Iranian

negotiators intend to adhere to the provisions demanded by Ayatollah Khamenei and Iran's parliament, I urge you to suspend the current negotiations with Iran.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a period at the end.

Robert Menendez
United States Senator