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Statement of Support from Senator Dodd

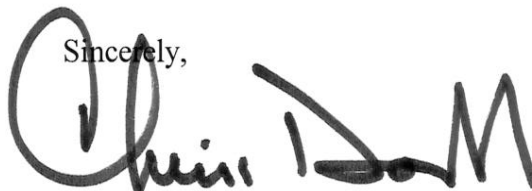
I write to join you in calling on the United Nations and the wider international community to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

In 2003, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) uncovered evidence of almost two decades of ongoing covert nuclear activities in Iran. Iran has insisted that its nuclear program is entirely peaceful and intended for civilian use; however, it refuses to submit the program to international oversight and has continually defied international will and UN resolutions calling for a suspension of its activities. Moreover, it is a known state-sponsor of terrorism, backing groups like Hezbollah, and has repeatedly called for the destruction of the State of Israel. There is no denying that the Iranian regime poses a grave threat to the entire international community, including Israel and the United States.

I strongly believe that Iran must not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons. Targeted US sanctions against the Iranian regime will not suffice; the international community must work collectively to implement and enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1696. Additionally, we must also work collectively to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1701 which calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah. We cannot allow Hezbollah to be re-armed with Iranian weapons and re-supplied with Iranian money.

With quick and decisive action, it is my hope that in the near future the international community, including the United Nations, will more robustly enforce these critical resolutions and thereby prevent Iran from further destabilizing the Middle-East and international security.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Dodd
UNITED STATES SENATE