

AIPAC is wrong to reject Iran agreement

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) has outlined eight arguments against the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), each of which is either misleading or simply untrue. Here are the facts:

AIPAC claims	The truth is
The proposed deal does not ensure "anytime, anywhere" short-notice inspections.	Inspectors will get the access they need, when and where they need it. Iran's nuclear facilities will be monitored 24/7, and no site will be off limits from IAEA inspectors. If Iran refuses to provide access, the US and our EU partners can deem Iran in violation of the deal, even over the objections of China and Russia.
	Without a deal, international inspectors would be granted little or no access to any sites, while Iran's nuclear program proceeds unmonitored and unrestricted.
The proposed deal does not clearly condition sanctions relief on full Iranian cooperation in satisfying International Atomic Energy Agency concerns over the possible military dimensions of Tehran's program.	Wrong. Sanctions relief will only be provided after Iran gives the IAEA the information and access it needs to complete its investigation into possible military dimensions of Iran's program. Without a deal, Iran would likely end cooperation with the IAEA, leaving us in the dark about its current and future nuclear activities.
The proposed deal lifts sanctions as soon as the agreement commences, rather than gradually as Iran demonstrates sustained adherence to the agreement.	Wrong. Sanctions relief will be phased and will depend on Iran verifiably demonstrating that it has completed key steps to roll back its program. Some sanctions are not removed until Iran has demonstrated years of compliance. Without a deal, multilateral sanctions would collapse and Iran could resume its nuclear activities unmonitored and unrestricted.
The proposed deal lifts key restrictions in as few as eight years	Most limits on Iran's nuclear program will stay in place for 10-15 years, while strict monitoring and inspections will be permanent. Without a deal, Iran's nuclear activities could proceed unmonitored and unrestricted immediately.

The proposed deal would disconnect and store centrifuges in an easily reversible manner, but it requires no dismantlement of centrifuges or any Iranian nuclear facility Wrong. The core of the Arak plutonium reactor will be removed and filled with concrete. Iran must not only physically remove % of installed centrifuges, but also dismantle and remove all of the pipework that connects the centrifuges and allows them to actually enrich uranium. This infrastructure will be removed from their current sites and placed under continuous IAEA surveillance. It would take well over two years for Iran to build back what it has today, and inspectors would detect within days any attempt to rebuild.

Without a deal, Iran's existing nuclear infrastructure would remain in place, fully connected and unmonitored as the regime rapidly adds to it.

Tehran will use sanctions relief to fuel its hegemonic ambitions, support the killing of civilians in Syria, fund the terrorist organizations Hamas and Hezbollah, and spur deadly conflicts throughout the region.

While Iran's regional destabilization and support for terror is a serious threat, the US and international community's priority in these talks was to ensure that Iran could not acquire a nuclear weapon. This deal spares the world an Iran that is both a bad actor AND a nuclear power. And with Iran's economy in shambles, it faces strong domestic pressure to use financial relief to benefit its economy and people, rather than its nefarious activities.

Without a deal, Iran's nuclear program could forge ahead toward a nuclear weapon that make its activities in the Middle East far more destructive.

It releases Tehran in a matter of years—regardless of Iranian behavior—from ballistic missile sanctions and an arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council. Even though these UNSC measures were expressly intended to be suspended upon implementation of a nuclear deal, US negotiators secured their ongoing enforcement until Iran changes its nuclear behavior by complying with the terms of the deal for several years. The US will also keep its own sanctions against Iran's ballistic missile activities in place.

Without a deal, ongoing multilateral adherence to these restrictions would be in doubt, while Iran's nuclear program proceeded unrestricted but unmonitored.

By leaving Iran on the threshold of a nuclear weapon—despite its history of violating international obligations—other countries in the region will have a dangerous incentive to initiate their own nuclear programs.

A far greater incentive to a nuclear arms race in the region would be Iran racing toward a nuclear weapon in the absence of an agreement. By verifiably blocking all of Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon, this deal provides assurance to allies and partners in the region that we will not allow Iran to obtain or threaten its neighbors with one. The US is also working with allies in the region at this very moment to address their specific security concerns.

Without a deal, Iran's nuclear program would proceed unmonitored and unrestricted, guaranteeing a nuclear arms race in the region.