

Subject: The Maximum Support Act (H.R. 2614)

Information from NUFDI's Website:

<https://nufdiran.org/resources/the-maximum-support-act/>

What is the Maximum Support Act?

The Maximum Support Act (H.R. 2614) is a piece of bipartisan U.S. legislation designed to provide direct support to the Iranian people in their quest for democracy, human rights, and a free society. It emphasizes internet freedom, strategic support for democratic change, and targeted sanctions that prioritize regime officials over civilians. It insists on Iranians' rights to choose their own, post-Islamic Republic form of government.

Key Provisions:

A Maximum Support Strategy: Mandates a White House strategy detailing steps to provide Maximum Support to the Iranian people, including:

- Establishing a Special Representative for Maximum Support
- Providing cyber support to Iranian protesters
- Reforming how the U.S. Agency for Global Media informs Iranians and counters regime propaganda

- Internet Freedom Initiatives: Establishes an interagency task force dedicated to enhancing secure internet access through advanced VPN services, innovative satellite-to-cell technology, eSIM distribution, robust anti-surveillance tools, cybersecurity software, and rapid response to cyber threats against dissidents.
- Asset Confiscation and Redistribution: Confiscates regime assets under U.S. jurisdiction, redirecting funds to support nonviolent democratic movements (such as Iranians engaged in labor strikes), humanitarian assistance, documentation of human rights abuses. This process includes robust oversight to prevent regime benefit.
- Strategic Defection Support: Calls for a comprehensive strategy aimed at facilitating secure communications, ensuring safety for defectors, and establishing an interagency working group tasked with managing defections and verifying the information provided by defectors.
- Iran's Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS) Terrorist Designation Assessment: Mandates a formal and comprehensive review by the State Department, Treasury, and Attorney General to determine whether the MOIS meets criteria for designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), enhancing global enforcement against the Islamic Republic's terrorist operations.

Why Now?

The regime in Iran is at its weakest point in decades due to ongoing internal protests, setbacks experienced by its proxies like Hezbollah and the Houthis, and the resurgence of the maximum pressure policy initiated by President Trump. This presents an optimal moment for the United States to significantly bolster Iranian democratic aspirations.

How Iranians, Iranian-Americans, and the United States Benefit:

Empowering Iranian Citizens: Facilitates secure communication and organization for activists, dissidents, and journalists. Lowers the risks of engaging in civil disobedience inside Iran.

Advancing U.S. Interests: Reinforces America's commitment to global democracy, human rights, and security without spending American money, adding new sanctions, or escalating towards military conflict.

Enhancing Regional Stability: Reduces the regime's influence and aggression promotes peace and stability in the region.

Contact and Action: Members of Congress are encouraged to co-sponsor the Maximum Support Act. For further details, please contact NUFDI.

10 Things to know about the Maximum Support Act

<https://nufdiran.org/resources/10-things-to-know-about-the-maximum-support-act/>

1. Diplomatic flexibility remains fully intact.

The bill defines strategic objectives and encourages coordinated interagency action without imposing constraints on executive diplomacy (Sec. 6(a)-(b), pp. 12-15).

Congressional oversight measures are clearly defined, enhancing transparency but not restricting diplomatic flexibility

2. USAGM's role re-focuses existing resources with no major expansion; explicit safeguards address historical accountability concerns.

The U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) is explicitly tasked with enhancing existing broadcasting efforts aimed at providing accurate and unbiased news coverage to the Iranian people, countering regime propaganda, and supporting independent journalists (Sec. 6(b)(4), p. 14).

To directly address historical accountability and fiscal responsibility concerns, the bill explicitly requires robust oversight through annual audits conducted by the Inspectors General of the Departments of State, Treasury, and USAID, along with the Comptroller General, to ensure transparency, responsible use of funds, and to prevent misuse (Sec. 4(d), p. 8).

Clear operational targets, structured oversight, and mandatory reporting ensure transparent evaluation explicitly designed to rectify historical operational and financial concerns (Sec. 4(d), p. 8; Sec. 6(b)(4), p. 14).

3. Treasury's role is explicitly limited—no direct vetting or distribution of funds.

Treasury will confiscate, hold securely, and allocate regime-linked assets into specific accounts, clearly designated for specific purposes like supporting strikers, humanitarian aid, and human rights documentation (Sec. 4(a)-(c), pp. 6-7).

The bill explicitly requires annual audits by the Comptroller General and Inspectors General (State, Treasury, USAID) to ensure full transparency and accountability (Sec. 4(d), p. 8).

Treasury does not directly handle vetting recipients or distributing funds. The bill leaves this detail unspecified beyond the requirement that recipients be "vetted" (Sec. 4(c)(1), p. 7).

4. U.S. support explicitly respects Iranian autonomy.

All assistance explicitly listed—such as secure internet (VPNs), cybersecurity training, humanitarian aid, and media freedom—is civilian-driven and non-intrusive (Sec. 3(b), pp. 3-6; Sec. 9(b), p. 19-20).

Measures are structured to maintain dissident legitimacy, avoiding perceptions of external interference.

5. Explicit measures prevent misuse by the Iranian regime.

Detailed vetting procedures for technology providers, continuous monitoring, congressional oversight, and regular audits are clearly mandated (Sec. 3(b)(4)-(6), pp. 4-5; Sec. 5(b)(2)(C), pp. 9-10). Technologies provided are specifically limited to civilian use—preventing diversion to the regime or affiliated groups (Sec. 9(b), pp. 19-20).

6. Asset confiscation is lawful, targeted, and transparent.

The bill exclusively targets assets belonging to entities already sanctioned under U.S. law due to terrorism, human rights abuses, or illicit financial activities (Sec. 4(a)-(b), pp. 6-7). It explicitly requires transparent annual audits and reporting to Congress, ensuring accountability and preventing any misuse (Sec. 4(d), p. 8).

7. Designation of Iran's MOIS as a terrorist entity is evidence-based.

The bill calls for evaluating and potentially designating Iran's Ministry of Intelligence (MOIS) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, strictly based on documented criteria such as support for terrorism, assassinations, espionage, and kidnappings (Sec. 7(a)-(c), pp. 15-17). This designation aims explicitly at restricting MOIS's global terrorist operations, enhancing transparency and accountability.

8. It is NOT a regime change bill.

The bill provides explicitly peaceful support to Iranians to aid their ongoing efforts to achieve a democratic government that respects human rights and rule of law (Sec. 2, p. 2; Sec. 6(a), p. 12). No authorization of military or covert operations aimed at regime overthrow is included anywhere in the bill.

9. Cybersecurity assistance is strictly defensive, tailored, and closely monitored.

Assistance includes secure communications, encryption technology, and cybersecurity training exclusively for dissidents, activists, and journalists (Sec. 3(b)(7)-(8), p. 5; Sec. 9(b), pp. 19-20). Continuous monitoring, rapid-response technical support, and explicit oversight prevent misuse by adversaries or regime affiliates (Sec. 3(b)(9)-(10), p. 6; Sec. 9(b)(3)-(4), p. 20).

10. Defection strategies are explicitly voluntary, secure, and protected.

The bill explicitly mandates developing a secure, voluntary strategy for Iranian officials and security personnel wishing to defect and support democratic change (Sec. 8(a)-(b), pp. 17-18). It explicitly includes secure communication, interagency coordination, assurances of safety, protection for defectors and families, and careful vetting of intelligence provided (Sec. 8(b)(1)-(6), p. 18).