

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 5826
OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “No Paydays for Hos-
3 tage-Takers Act”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Islamic Republic of Iran has a long his-
7 tory of hostage-taking and wrongful detention of
8 United States nationals, including its illegal deten-
9 tion of 52 American diplomats from 1979 to 1981.

10 (2) The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and
11 Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741
12 et seq.), named in honor of Robert Levinson, the
13 longest-held hostage in United States history who is
14 presumed to have been killed by the regime while in
15 Iranian custody, authorizes sanctions with respect to
16 foreign persons who are responsible for or complicit
17 in hostage-taking or unlawful or wrongful detention
18 of United States nationals abroad.

1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It shall be the policy of the United States to under-
3 take additional actions and impose strict penalties to deter
4 the Government of Iran and other hostile governments and
5 non-state actors from hostage-taking or wrongfully detain-
6 ing United States nationals.

7 **SEC. 4. REPORT AND CERTIFICATION ON RESTRICTED IRA-**
8 **NIAN FUNDS RELEASED TO QATAR.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days
11 thereafter for 6 years, the President shall submit to the
12 Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Fi-
13 nancial Services of the House of Representatives and the
14 Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on
15 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate the
16 following:

17 (1) A report on the \$6,000,000,000 in funds
18 transferred from restricted Iranian accounts in the
19 Republic of South Korea to restricted accounts in
20 Qatar on or after August 9, 2023.

21 (2) A certification as to whether credible evi-
22 dence or intelligence exists that any of the funds
23 transferred have been used for any purpose other
24 than humanitarian purposes.

25 (3) A certification as to whether credible evi-
26 dence or intelligence exists that the funds trans-

1 ferred have enabled the Government of Iran to in-
2 crease spending on defense, intelligence, or malign
3 foreign activities.

4 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
5 quired by subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

6 (1) An itemized list of all transactions involving
7 the use of funds transferred, including the value of
8 such transactions, the parties to such transactions,
9 the financial institutions involved, the goods pur-
10 chased in each transaction, the destinations and end
11 user of such goods, the date on which the United
12 States was notified of such transaction, and the date
13 the transaction occurred.

14 (2) The quantity of funds described in sub-
15 section (a)(1) in restricted accounts in Qatar at the
16 beginning and end of each reporting period.

17 (3) A thorough description of the process the
18 United States Government utilized during the re-
19 porting period to review transactions involving the
20 use of funds transferred in order to verify that such
21 transactions were humanitarian in nature.

1 **SEC. 5. REVIEW AND DETERMINATION AND REPORTS ON**
2 **SANCTIONS UNDER THE ROBERT LEVINSON**
3 **HOSTAGE RECOVERY AND HOSTAGE-TAKING**
4 **ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.**

5 (a) REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.—Not later than
6 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
7 on an annual basis thereafter for 6 years, the President
8 shall—

9 (1) review all cases of the hostage-taking of a
10 United States national in Iran or at the direction of
11 the Government of Iran and all cases of the unlawful
12 or wrongful detention of a United States national in
13 Iran or at the direction of the Government of Iran
14 that have occurred during the preceding 10-year pe-
15 riod; and

16 (2) make a determination as to whether any
17 foreign person, based on credible evidence—

18 (A) is responsible for or complicit in, or re-
19 sponsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise
20 directing, the hostage-taking of the United
21 States national or the unlawful or wrongful de-
22 tention of the United States national; or

23 (B) knowingly provides financial, material,
24 or technological support for, or goods or serv-
25 ices in support of, an activity described in sub-
26 paragraph (A).

1 (b) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis
3 thereafter for 6 years, the President shall submit to the
4 appropriate congressional committees a report that—

5 (1) identifies all foreign persons with respect to
6 which the President has made a determination under
7 subsection (a)(2); and

8 (2) with respect to each such foreign person—

9 (A) states whether sanctions have been im-
10 posed under section 306 of the Robert Levinson
11 Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Ac-
12 countability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741d) or will be
13 imposed within 30 days of the date of the sub-
14 mission of the report; and

15 (B) for whom sanctions have not been im-
16 posed or will not be imposed under section 306
17 of such Act, provides a description of the spe-
18 cific authority under which otherwise applicable
19 sanctions are being waived, have otherwise been
20 determined not to apply, or are not being im-
21 posed and a complete justification of the deci-
22 sion to waive or otherwise not apply the sanc-
23 tions authorized by such sanctions programs
24 and authorities.

1 **SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT TO LIMIT TRAVEL OF IRANIAN DIP-**
2 **LOMATS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) United States visa restrictions on sanc-
5 tioned individuals often contain exceptions for activi-
6 ties in order to permit the United States to comply
7 with the Agreement regarding the headquarters of
8 the United Nations signed at Lake Success June 26,
9 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,
10 between the United Nations and the United States.

11 (2) Section 6 of Public Law 80–357 (commonly
12 known as the “United Nations Headquarters Agree-
13 ment Act”) provides “Nothing in the agreement
14 shall be construed as in any way diminishing,
15 abridging, or weakening the right of the United
16 States to safeguard its own security.”.

17 (3) Congress has directed the President to use
18 the President’s authority, including the authorities
19 contained in section 6 of Public Law 80–357, to
20 deny any individual’s admission to the United States
21 as a representative to the United Nations if the
22 President determines that such individual has been
23 found to have been engaged in espionage activities
24 or a terrorist activity directed against the United
25 States or its allies and may pose a threat to United
26 States national security interests.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that Iran’s longstanding hostage-taking and wrong-
3 ful detention of United States nationals, assassination
4 plots against United States nationals outside and within
5 the United States, and intelligence activities are a security
6 or terrorist threat to the United States and United States
7 interests and shall be a primary consideration in limiting
8 travel of Iranian diplomats seeking admission to the
9 United States for United Nations activities and their fam-
10 ily members.

11 (c) DENIAL OF VISAS.—Section 407(a)(1) of the For-
12 eign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and
13 1991 (8 U.S.C. 1102 note) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “(1)” and inserting “(1)(A)”;

15 (2) by striking “and” at the end and inserting
16 “or”; and

17 (3) by adding further at the end the following:

18 “(B) has been sanctioned pursuant to Ex-
19 ecutive Order 13224 (66 Fed. Reg. 49079; re-
20 lating to blocking property and prohibiting
21 transactions with persons who commit, threaten
22 to commit, or support terrorism) or Executive
23 Order 13382 (70 Fed. Reg. 38567; relating to
24 blocking property of weapons of mass destruc-
25 tion proliferators and their supporters) as of

1 the date of the enactment of the No Paydays
2 for Hostage-Takers Act; and”.

3 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
5 3 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate con-
6 gressional committees a report on whether the President
7 has taken action to restrict the travel of Iranian diplomats
8 seeking admission to the United States for United Nations
9 activities and their family members and identifying each
10 such instance in which visas were denied or travel was re-
11 stricted.

12 **SEC. 7. REPORT ON BLOCKED IRANIAN ASSETS.**

13 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the
15 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
16 committees a report that includes the following:

17 (1) An itemized list of any identifiable assets
18 with a valuation of more than \$100,000 belonging to
19 Iranian individuals and entities that are or have
20 been blocked or otherwise frozen pursuant to any
21 sanctions program under any jurisdiction globally, in
22 the prior 2 years.

23 (2) Any changes to the status of such assets,
24 including unblocking, unfreezing, or transferring
25 such assets, in the prior 2 years.

1 (3) With respect to any changes identified in
2 paragraph (2), whether the United States Govern-
3 ment took any action, including waiving of sanc-
4 tions, that related to such unblocking or unfreezing,
5 and a justification for any such United States ac-
6 tions.

7 **SEC. 8. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO FREEZE**
8 **AND SEIZE IRANIAN ASSETS.**

9 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
10 gress that the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the
11 Treasury, and the Attorney General should, to the extent
12 practicable—

13 (1) carry out a coordinated international effort
14 to find, restrain, freeze, and where appropriate and
15 legally authorized, seize, confiscate or forfeit the as-
16 sets of those individuals and entities that have been
17 sanctioned in connection with Iran’s malign activi-
18 ties, including hostage-taking, wrongful detention,
19 and human rights violations; and

20 (2) work with foreign governments—

21 (A) to share intelligence of financial inves-
22 tigations, as appropriate;

23 (B) to oversee the assets identified pursu-
24 ant to paragraph (1); and

1 (C) to provide technical assistance to help
2 governments establish the necessary legal
3 framework to carry out asset forfeitures.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
6 3 years, the President shall submit to the appropriate con-
7 gressional committees a report on actions described in
8 subsection (a).

9 **SEC. 9. DETERMINATION AND REPORT ON INVALIDATING**
10 **UNITED STATES PASSPORTS FOR TRAVEL TO**
11 **IRAN.**

12 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

13 (1) The Secretary of State maintains authority
14 to restrict the use of United States passports for
15 travel to or use in a country or area which the Sec-
16 retary has determined is a country or area in which
17 there is imminent danger to the public health or
18 physical safety of United States travelers, in accord-
19 ance with section 51.63 of title 22, Code of Federal
20 Regulations.

21 (2) In 2017, the Secretary of State declared
22 United States passports invalid for travel to, in, or
23 through North Korea, unless specially validated for
24 such travel, after United States citizen Otto

1 Warmbier suffered grievous injuries in North Ko-
2 rean custody, which led to his death.

3 (3) The ban on use of United States passports
4 for travel to North Korea was renewed in 2023.

5 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
6 gress that the Secretary of State should declare United
7 States passports invalid for travel to, in, or through Iran
8 due to the imminent danger to the public health and phys-
9 ical safety of United States travelers stemming from the
10 threat of wrongful detention or being taken hostage by the
11 Iranian regime.

12 (c) DETERMINATION AND REPORT.—Not later than
13 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and annu-
14 ally thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary of State shall
15 determine and report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs
16 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
17 Foreign Relations of the Senate—

18 (1) whether the travel of United States persons
19 to Iran presents an imminent danger to the public
20 health or physical safety of United States travelers;
21 and

22 (2) whether the Secretary is exercising his au-
23 thority to declare United States passports invalid for
24 travel to, in, or through Iran.

1 **SEC. 10. STRATEGY TO DETER HOSTAGE-TAKING.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the President shall develop and submit
4 to Congress a strategy to deter and prevent wrongful de-
5 tention and hostage-taking by United States adversaries,
6 including identifying penalties for wrongful detention and
7 hostage-taking, identifying clear United States Govern-
8 ment policies barring the payment of ransom or trans-
9 actions that could be viewed as ransom, by the United
10 States Government, and detailing plans to coordinate with
11 United States allies and partners on such strategy.

12 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
15 **TEES.**—the term “appropriate congressional commit-

16 tees” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
18 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
19 Representatives; and

20 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
21 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
22 ate.

23 (2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign per-
24 son”—

25 (A) means an individual or entity that is
26 not a United States person; and

1 (B) includes a foreign state (as such term
2 is defined in section 1603 of title 28, United
3 States Code).

4 (3) UNITED STATES NATIONAL.—The term
5 “United States national” has the meaning given that
6 term in section 307(2) of the Robert Levinson Hos-
7 tage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability
8 Act (22 U.S.C. 1741e(2)).

