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I am pleased to send this message to the Organization of Iranian American Communities of the United States.

Thank you for continuing to highlight the plight of Iranians who remain silent under an oppressive, brutal regime. I share your vision for a better future for Iran and all Iranians. A future in which all Iranians live without fear and enjoy a government that represents the will of its citizens, respects human rights, abides by the rule of law and lives in peace and cooperation with its neighbors.

Unfortunately, across the Middle East, Iran continues to threaten the national security and interests of the United States. It continues to pursue a belligerent, ballistic missile program.

The regime continues to work with Vladimir Putin to enable Bashar al-Assad's ongoing slaughter of his own people. It continues to support Hezbollah in Lebanon and militias in Iraq, destabilizing both countries. It continues to supply weapons and technical know-how to the Houthis in Yemen.

Yet even as its leaders continue to supply terrorists across the region with money, weapons and resources, the people of Iran suffer under a repressive regime with absolutely no respect for basic human rights and no economic investment in their welfare.

As someone who has spent much of my tenure in Congress finding ways to effectively counter Iranian aggression, I would also stress the importance of Congress in our foreign policy and that the Congress ultimately and only has the power to authorize the use of military force. The U.S. can and will continue to stand as a bulwark against Iranian aggression. We can and must invest in a diplomatic surge to meaningfully engage our allies in a way that pushes Iran to engage in serious negotiations to end its pathway towards nuclear weapons and its malign activities.

Thank you for coming together and making your voices heard. I will always support justice and human rights, peace and security and above all else, the rights of all Iranians to fundamental freedoms.

Sincerely,

Robert Menendez

United States Senator