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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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(\*PARTS OF)

September 12, 2016

The Honorable David S. Cohen  
Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence  
United States Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC 20220

Under Secretary Cohen:

I write to you in regards to the Administration's confirmation of a total of \$1.7 billion cash payment made to Iran between January 17, 2016 and February 6, 2016. This transfer was made without the knowledge of Congress and in clear violation of U.S. policy of refusing ransom payments. Aside from placing Americans abroad at increased risk, the payment has far reaching national security implications.

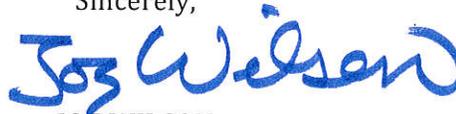
In your testimony before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on June 4, 2013, you accurately described Iran as "the world's foremost state sponsor of international terrorism." It is well documented that Tehran has a history of financing of Hezbollah, radical groups in Gaza, Houthi rebels in Yemen, and even Al-Qaeda. With the money they receive from Iran, terror groups are able to further destabilize the Middle East and threaten America and its allies.

Equally troubling, is Iran's status as one of the world's foremost money launderers, ranking first on the Basel Anti Money Laundering Index. By providing this regime with billions of dollars in untraceable foreign currency, the Administration is aiding the regime and criminals across the world in their perpetuation of financial crimes.

Given the information stated above, I remain gravely concerned with the nefarious possibilities of this cash payment. I ask that you provide me with your assessment of the threat posed by this untraceable cash transfer, the steps taken by your office to counter the potential of these funds being used to finance terrorist activities, an assessment of the risk posed by this cash transfer given Iran's status as a primary money launderer, and whether or not your office can conclusively say that these funds will not be used for money laundering and terrorist activities.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



JOE WILSON  
Member of Congress

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