



**Connecticut
Children's**
MEDICAL CENTER

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My name is Leonard Eisenfeld. I submit this testimony today in support of Bill No.5324, an Act Concerning Divestment of State Funds Invested in Companies Doing Business in Iran and Sudan.

I am a pediatrician here at Connecticut Childrens'. Last Thursday, February 25 marked 14 years since my son Matthew was murdered by a Palestinian suicide bomber on a city bus in Jerusalem, Israel. The bombing claimed 26 lives including Matthew and his girlfriend, Sara Duker, a brilliant, young woman from New Jersey. The bombing was carried out by Hamas. The orders for this act of terrorism, training, and funding, came from Iran. This information was given to us originally by the State Department of the United States. It was confirmed proudly and unapologetically in a confession by Hassan Salameh, the mastermind behind this particular mission. Salameh is serving multiple life sentences in an Israeli prison since his arrest and conviction of crimes committed.

Matthew had recently graduated from Yale University, and Sara from Barnard . Both were graduate students studying in Israel. In the 14 years since Matthew's and Sara's deaths, our families have experienced a gamut of emotions. But the answer to our loss, the way in which we have chosen to commit ourselves to keeping Matthew and Sara's memory alive, and to ensure that their lives continue to make a difference, has been through action. Matthew did not believe in moments of silence.

We have committed untold hours and resources towards working with Congress to ensure punishing legislation that stops Iran from acting as a state sponsor of terrorism. We have taken our case to U.S. Federal court and successfully sued Iran for damages as we were able to prove their culpability. Currently, Iran continues to bankroll the terrorists who have killed our children and gives support and sanction to those who continue to threaten the future of all of our children. Cutting off funds to regimes that sponsor terrorism is an important tool in the fight against them.

When I ponder the devastation of Matt's and Sara's murder to our family, and the bereavement of the families of others' sons and daughters studying abroad or serving in our armed forces, I understand the devastation terrorism or a nuclear holocaust would mean.

Bill No. 5324 is a critical step in the right direction. It allows the State of Connecticut to make the important statement that it will not support, finance, or in any way aid a country that endangers or threatens our citizens. It says that Connecticut will not support or help finance a country that sponsors or incites terrorism against citizens anywhere in the world. We urge you to join us in this critical work by supporting Bill No. 5324

Leonard Eisenfeld M.D.
Attending Neonatologist
Connecticut Childrens' Medical Center
Associate Prof/Pediatrics, University of Connecticut