

To the Government, Administration, and Elections Committee, I Matthew Nestler, a student at Wesleyan University, submit the following written testimony supporting H.B. 5324.

I give this testimony as a college student, an American, and a citizen of the world who is genuinely concerned about our future due to the Islamic Republic of Iran's behavior. This is an apocalyptic theocratic military dictatorship that, since their Islamic Revolution in 1979, has been a threat to not only the United States, but also every peace-loving regime in the world. In the world's most volatile region, Iran is the biggest de-stabilizing nation, trying to wreak havoc upon its neighbors. Whether it's support terrorist groups such as Hizbollah in Lebanon, which is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans, Hamas in Gaza, whether it's fueling sectarian violence in Iraq, fueling the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan or its pursuit of nuclear weapons, Iran poses a direct challenge to not only our nation's, but also the world's, security and continuous prosperity.

After over thirty years of every American president, both Democrat and Republican, continually trying to reach out and find common ground with the mullahs of Iran, it has unequivocally been proven that regular negotiations cannot and will not change its behavior. It is time for tough economic sanctions that can strangle the regime and let the new "Green" movement bear fruit. It should be noted that these sanctions are not directed at the Persian people, but instead at the ruling murderous regime. The great State of Connecticut should immediately divest from any company that is involved with Iran's energy and weapons industries as well as any other entity that aids terrorism.

Some might claim that Iran is not America's problem, that we shouldn't fight Israel's or other Arab nations, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt's, battles, but they are wrong. Bombings perpetrated by Iran's proxies all around the world has proven that this is not simply one nation's fight; on the contrary, this is the world's fight. Isolationism is a friendly prospect to some, while ignoring the threat is convenient to others. But I implore you to use your best moral judgment and realize that we must pressure Iran as forcefully as possible to give up its pursuit of nuclear weapons and these economic sanctions could play a key role.

Thank you very much.

Matthew Nestler