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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

July 28, 2010

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The Honorable Therese Murray  
President of the Senate  
The General Court of Massachusetts  
Room 330  
The State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear President Murray,

*Terry*

I am writing to express my strong support for H.4297, which has just passed the Massachusetts House of Representative, and to encourage that this bill be scheduled for a Senate vote before the end of the current legislative session. This bill would require the Massachusetts pension fund to divest from foreign oil and gas companies that do more than \$20 million in business with Iran. Legislation permitting such divestment is a vitally important component of the international and national effort to deter the Iranian government from its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Since 2007, I have introduced legislation in the United States Congress known as the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, which would allow state and local government to undertake such actions without fear of potential fiduciary-related legal action. And I am pleased to note in this regard that the relevant enabling provisions of my legislation were incorporated into the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010, which President Obama has recently signed into law.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Speaker DeLeo in support of H. 4297, which I organized and which was signed by the entire Massachusetts delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives. It is my hope, and I believe also the hope of the other signees of the letter to Speaker DeLeo, that it will be possible to bring this bill before the Senate, in order to send the strongest possible signal at a crucial time to the Iranian government that not only the international community and the United States, but also key constituent states within our country, remain resolutely committed to doing everything possible to stop the Iranian regime from acquiring nuclear weapons. Thank you for your help on this matter.

*Barney*  
BARNEY FRANK

BF/mr  
Enclosure

*Terry -  
This would  
have a very good  
impact -  
Barney*

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2010

Robert A. DeLeo  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Room 356  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Speaker,

As we write, the United States Congress has just passed tough legislation regarding sanctions against Iran. We are supportive of this effort because we believe deeply that it is important to do everything we can to stop the Iranian regime from its progress towards nuclear weapons.

We write to you because we believe that the passage of this legislation is of great relevance to legislation pending in the Massachusetts House – where, as you know, many of us were proud to serve.

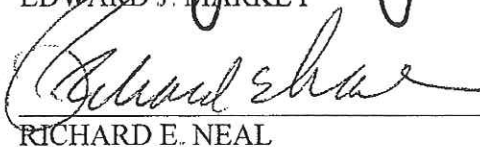
The logic behind the federal bill applies with similar force to Massachusetts House Bill H 4297. In fact, a part of the federal bill is legislation that specifically empowers the states to take the sort of action contemplated in H 4297.

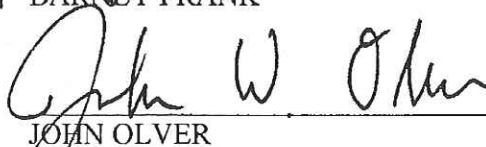
Massachusetts plays a very important role in this because it was a decision interfering with Massachusetts' effort to enforce human rights through a similar sanction with regard to PERMA that led to a court decision that invalidated state powers and led us in fact to pass this legislation.

Given the importance of doing everything possible to deter the regime led by a president who has denied the existence of the Holocaust and called for Israel to be wiped off the face of the earth, who has oppressed his own people, and who has been a bitter and unreasoning critic of all aspects of American policy, we very much hope that our Massachusetts Legislative colleagues will join us in support of effective sanctions legislation that would help deter Iran from building nuclear weapons.

  
EDWARD J. MARKEY

  
BARNEY FRANK

  
RICHARD E. NEAL

  
JOHN OLVER

*Bill Delahunt*

BILL DELAHUNT

*Jim McGovern*

JAMES P. McGOVERN

*John F. Tierney*

JOHN F. TIERNEY

*Michael E. Capuano*

MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

*Steph Lynch*

STEPHEN F. LYNCH

*Niki Tsongas*

NIKI TSONGAS

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