

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 2016

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

We are gravely concerned about your recent letter to Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif that sought to allay Iran's complaints about Visa Waiver Program (VWP) reforms recently signed into law in the United States.

As you know, the new reforms would prohibit any national of a VWP country who has traveled to a country designated by the U.S. Government as a State Sponsor of Terrorism since March 2011, or who holds dual-citizenship with designated countries, from traveling under the VWP. Instead, these individuals would be required to obtain a visa. Iran is a U.S.-designated State Sponsor of Terrorism.

Mr. Zarif, who described reforms to protect the Visa Waiver Program against terrorist infiltration as "absurd," also had the temerity to ask: "Has anybody in the West been targeted by any Iranian national, anybody of Iranian origin, or anyone travelling to Iran?"

Iran-sponsored terrorists and militants are responsible for the death of more than 700 Americans. During the 1980s, Iran-backed Hezbollah terrorists killed over 290 Americans in Lebanon—including 241 U.S. servicemen in the Beirut Barracks Bombing of October 23, 1983. During the 2000s, Iran-backed attacks killed hundreds of Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan. On July 9, 2015, General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Senators: "I know the total number of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines killed by Iranian activities [in Iraq and Afghanistan], and the number has been recently quoted as about 500."

As you continue to engage with Mr. Zarif, we urge—rather than seeking to placate the complaints of Iran, the world's biggest state sponsor of terrorism—you to press him and his government to cease its support for terrorism and provide tangible evidence that it is doing so. We also ask you to clarify to Mr. Zarif and his colleagues that these reforms to the VWP were not drafted with Iranian interests in mind, but U.S. national security interests.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



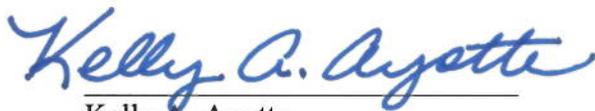
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



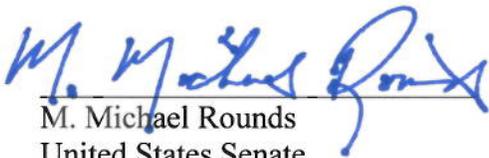
James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



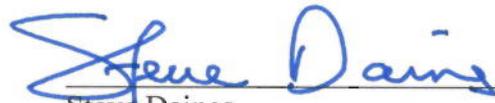
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United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senate



Steve Daines
United States Senate



Johnny Isakson
United States Senate



Cory Gardner
United States Senate



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