

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2790

To make additional financial assets of the Government of Iran available to pay compensatory damages to the victims of terrorism sponsored by that Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

Mr. PENCE (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To make additional financial assets of the Government of Iran available to pay compensatory damages to the victims of terrorism sponsored by that Government, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Our Obligation to Rec-
5 ognize American Heroes (OORAH) Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AS-**
2 **SETS OF IRAN TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) On October 23, 1983, terrorists sponsored
6 by the Government of Iran bombed the United
7 States Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. The ter-
8 rorists killed 241 servicemen and injured scores
9 more.

10 (2) Those servicemen were killed or injured
11 while on a peacekeeping mission.

12 (3) Terrorism sponsored by the Government of
13 Iran threatens the national security of the United
14 States.

15 (4) The United States has a vital interest in en-
16 suring that members of the Armed Forces killed or
17 injured by such terrorism, and the family members
18 of such members, are able to seek justice.

19 (b) AMENDMENTS.—Section 502 of the Iran Threat
20 Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22
21 U.S.C. 8772) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “in
24 the United States” and inserting “by or”;

25 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “,
26 or an asset that would be blocked if the asset

1 were located in the United States,” after
2 “unblocked”); and

3 (C) in the flush text at the end—

4 (i) by inserting after “in aid of execu-
5 tion” the following: “, or to an order di-
6 recting that the asset be brought to the
7 State in which the court is located and
8 subsequently to execution or attachment in
9 aid of execution,”; and

10 (ii) by inserting “, without regard to
11 concerns relating to international comity”
12 after “resources for such an act”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) by striking “that are identified” and
15 inserting the following: “that are—
16 “(1) identified”;

17 (B) by striking the period at the end and
18 inserting “; and”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(2) identified in and the subject of proceedings
21 in the United States District Court for the Southern
22 District of New York in Peterson et al. v. Islamic
23 Republic of Iran et al., Case No. 13 Civ. 9195
24 (LAP).”;

25 (3) by striking subsection (e);

1 (4) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
2 subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

3 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(c) PERSONAL JURISDICTION.—For purposes of
6 this section, the United States District Court for the
7 Southern District of New York shall have personal juris-
8 diction over any foreign securities intermediary that cred-
9 ited financial assets described in subsection (b) to an ac-
10 count the intermediary holds outside the United States.”.

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