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There are several congressional efforts underway to strengthen and update U.S. sanctions on Iran. In the U.S. House, H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act, and H.R. 2105, the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Reform and Modernization Act, have both been approved by House Foreign Affairs Committee. H.R. 1905 has 349 cosponsors. Additionally, S. 1048, the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Sanctions Act has 76 cosponsors in the Senate. This overwhelming bipartisan support suggests that there is near-unanimous agreement that these Iranian sanctions must be adopted. Among other things, these three bills would:

- Update the 1996 Iran sanctions to direct the President to impose three or more sanctions against a person or entity who knowingly participates in a petroleum transaction with Iran, or who knowingly participates in a transaction that could result in Iran obtaining equipment or knowledge that could aid in its ability to obtain refined petroleum.
- Update the 1996 sanctions to better identify those engaging in sanctionable transactions with Iran. Directs the President to levy sanctions on such individuals or businesses.
- Give Congress the ability to alert the President of a person or entity's potential engagement in "sanctionable activities," and requires the President to respond within 60 days.
- Direct the President to impose sanctions on individuals for whom there is a reasonable basis to conclude is affiliated with Iran's Revolutionary Guard.
- Prohibit vessels that have docked in Iran, North Korea or Syria from landing at a U.S. port for the following 180 day.

- Provide permitted sanctions for violations including: a) prohibitions on Export-Import Bank assistance, b) prohibitions on U.S. loans, c) prohibitions on foreign transactions, d) prohibitions on property transactions, and d) export and procurement sanctions.