

# Statement Commending Democratic Representatives Who Oppose Iranian Nuclear Deal



Congressman Eliot Engel speaking with members of Agudath Israel of America's Board of Trustees, February 2015.

The announcement by Representative Eliot Engel that he intends to vote to disapprove the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action brings to eight the number of Democrats in the House of Representatives who have joined many of their Republican colleagues who have already announced their opposition to the proposed Iranian nuclear deal. These Democratic Representatives – Ted Deutch, Steve Israel, Nita Lowey, Grace Meng, Kathleen Rice, Albio Sires, Juan Vargas and now Eliot Engel – are to be commended for their courageous position.

In Representative Engel's case, as the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, it was surely no simple matter for him to defy the leadership of his party by publicly declaring that the proposed deal is unacceptable. We at

Agudath Israel have met with Representative Engel a number of times over the past few years to discuss the Iranian nuclear threat, and we are deeply gratified that he is standing firm in rejecting the deeply flawed and dangerous deal currently on the table.

We congratulate the eight Democratic Representatives who have displayed courage in considering the proposed Iranian nuclear deal without reference to partisan party concerns; and we respectfully call upon other members of Congress, regardless of political affiliation, to recognize the serious shortcomings of the JCPOA, and to disapprove this deal.