

Last night, I sponsored legislation to prevent businesses with ties to Iran from raising funds in the United States.

The radical clerics that control Iran's government are constantly searching to get the money and goods they need to stay in power and to threaten our interests and, through their terrorist intermediaries, to threaten the interests of our ally Israel. A bill that was brought before the House this week could, unfortunately, offer the Iranian government an opening. The bill is intended to make credit more available to American small businesses but could inadvertently provide money to businesses with ties to the Iranian government.

[My amendment sought to do only one thing:](#) to expand existing prohibitions against funding Iran-tied businesses to include the new small business credit program.

This seemed to me to be as simple, as straightforward, and as noncontroversial an idea as could be imagined – yet it was rejected in the House on a party-line vote. All 187 Democrats present voted for it. Not a single Republican voted in its favor.

How is it possible that party loyalty has come to matter more than the effort to reject state sponsors of terrorism?

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO APPLY FOR HURRICANE AID

If you suffered losses from Hurricane Irene, you now have an extra 30 days to apply for federal disaster assistance. Renters, homeowners, and business owners who suffered damage from the storm and flooding now have until November 30 to register for disaster assistance.

I encourage you to apply, even if you are not certain whether your losses are eligible. A number of disaster victims who thought their losses would not qualify have contacted me to say that they have been pleased by their approval and the speed of reimbursement.

To register, go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov or call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362). Telephone lines are open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and multilingual operators are available.

THIS YEAR'S FLU SHOT

It's that time of year again: time to receive your annual seasonal flu shot, which will protect you from dangerous and possibly fatal complications from the flu virus.

Everyone six months of age and older should be vaccinated each year. Vaccination is especially important for seniors, children, health care workers, and people who live with or care for people at high risk of flu complications. Because children younger than six months are at high risk of serious flu illness but are too young to be vaccinated, the people who care for them should be vaccinated. To learn more about influenza, and to find a vaccine provider near you, visit Flu.Gov.

Sincerely,

Rush Holt
Member of Congress