

**Standing Against Houthi Aggression Act**

**Senator Steve Daines**

Background: Ansarallah (commonly referred to as “The Houthis”) emerged most recently in 2011 as an Islamist political and armed organization. They have gradually extended their control across large parts of Yemen, including Sanaa, the capital. Since 2015, they have been in an armed conflict with Saudi Arabia. The actions of Ansarallah have killed many civilians and continue to destabilize the region, while continuing to actively threaten the security of U.S. nationals and the national security interests of the United States. Ansarallah has increasingly aligned itself with Iran and has accepted arms, munitions, missiles, drones, training, and funding from the Iranian IRGC.

Because of the ongoing terrorist actions of Ansarallah, then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo designated Ansarallah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on January 19, 2021. Approximately one month later, **Secretary of State Blinken revoked the designation of Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization.**

Most recently, Ansarallah has involved itself in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict which began on October 7th, 2023. On 19 October, 2023, the U.S.S Carney intercepted both cruise missiles and UAVs launched from Yemen by Ansarallah. While the precise targets remain unclear, what is certain is that Ansarallah will continue to harass American, Israeli, and other targets of opportunity in the Middle East.

Finally, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad have all been designated FTOs since 1997. These groups, Hezbollah chief among them, are the major proxies for Iran in their continued campaign against Israel and American interests in the Middle East. Ansarallah, as yet another major proxy of Iran, should be added to the FTO list.

**Summary:** The primary outcome of this legislation will be the re-designation of Ansarallah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. Department of State.

Designation as an FTO will automatically produce the following outcomes;

1. It is unlawful for a person in the United States or subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to knowingly provide “material support or resources” to a designated FTO.
2. Representatives and members of a designated FTO, if they are aliens, are inadmissible to and, in certain circumstances, removable from the United States .
3. Any U.S. financial institution that becomes aware that it has possession of or control over funds in which a designated FTO or its agent has an interest must report the funds to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

These sanctions will provides a means by which to disrupt the financial support network for terrorists and terrorist organizations by authorizing the U.S. government to designate and block the assets of foreign individuals and entities that commit, or pose a significant risk of committing, acts of terrorism.