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**Statement from Former CIA Operations Officer, Abigail Spanberger, on Iran Decertification Decision**

GLEN ALLEN, VA -- Abigail Spanberger, Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia's 7th district and former CIA operations officer, released the following statement in response to President Trump's decision not to recertify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA):

"The President's announcement to not recertify the Iran Nuclear Deal leaves Congress with a choice of whether to act to reimpose sanctions or not. As a former intelligence officer with the CIA, I understand all too well how this decision is dangerous. I urge members of Congress to not reimpose sanctions, which would withdraw the United States from the deal and would send exactly the wrong message to North Korea at a critical time.

"The United States did not enter this deal lightly. It took 20 months for diplomats from the P5+1 countries to reach this agreement. The JCPOA compels Iran to accept restrictions on its nuclear program, to include inspections, in exchange for sanctions relief. The purpose of this agreement is to make the world safer, by bringing countries together to address the threat of a nuclear Iran.

"Agreements such as the JCPOA require adherence, and we should take action if we have evidence that Iran is not following the rules. However, we should not threaten agreements that provide us with greater visibility into the nuclear capabilities of adversary nations without cause - - doing so makes us less safe. We should not threaten the future of the multilateral agreements we helped build just to prove political points back home -- doing so hurts our vital partnerships in the world.

"The United States has long history of being a stabilizing force in the world, leading by example, and to ensure our continued national security, we must continue to lead in this way. I urge Congress to trust the hard work of the diplomats who negotiated this deal and the analysis of the intelligence officers whose work guided them, and take no action to reimpose sanctions on Iran."

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Paid for by Spanberger for Congress