

DOTHAN EAGLE

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

Friday, June 19, 2026

dothaneagle.com

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST

SOME REPUBLICANS CRITICIZE IRAN DEAL



ERIC LEE, REUTERS

Vice President JD Vance speaks Thursday during a media briefing at the White House in Washington.

Vance said Thursday marked start of 60-day negotiation period

PATRICIA ZENGERLE AND NATHAN LAYNE
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s interim deal to end the Iran war met public criticism from some of his fellow Republicans as copies of the signed agreement circulated on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

One Republican senator called the framework pact announced this week the “worst foreign policy blunder in decades,” another said some reported provisions seemed “ill-advised,” and some pro-Republican commentators also broke with Trump over the agreement.

The criticism was a rare rebuke from members of the Republican Party who generally offer full loyalty to the president, but are increasingly restive as the economic effects of the Iran conflict hurt their prospects ahead of midterm elections in November that will decide control of Congress.

Democrats, who seek to regain control of one or both of the legislative chambers, are also critical of the agreement.

The White House sent the text of the U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding to members of Congress on Thursday, a day

after Trump signed the preliminary deal to end the war.

Lawmakers from both parties say they want more information from the White House.

By Thursday, congressional aides said there were no briefings for Congress on the deal or the administration’s plans, and there had been no announcement that any were scheduled.

Some of the sharpest criticism of the MOU involved reports that the Trump administration has agreed to release frozen Iranian assets, allow the creation of a \$300 billion private wealth fund to trigger investment in Iran and ease sanctions.

Strait opens

About 12.5 million barrels of crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz overnight, Vice President JD Vance said Thursday, hours after Trump signed the MOU.

But in Lebanon, where more than a million people are displaced by the fighting, Israeli forces launched new airstrikes early Thursday, raising doubt about how far Trump will go to force his wartime allies to halt an offensive he now pledged to end.

Trump put his signature on the

“memorandum of understanding” Wednesday to end the war, as did Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian, bringing it into effect two days earlier than previously expected. It calls for the immediate opening of the Strait of Hormuz and lifting of a U.S. blockade of Iran’s ports.

Vance, who will represent the United States at a formal ceremony in Switzerland on Friday to confirm the interim accord, said Thursday marked the start of the 60-day negotiation period to reach a final settlement to the war, which Trump launched in February alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Shippers say it will still take time for transit across the strait to reach prewar levels, with a need yet to ensure safe access and clear mines.

Lebanon

But Israel, which launched an invasion of Lebanon in March and since seized a large swath of the south in pursuit of Hezbollah militants who opened fire across the border in support of Iran, was excluded from the negotiations.

Please see IRAN DEAL, Page A2



EVAN VUCCI, REUTERS

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., leaves the Senate Chamber on Wednesday in Washington.

Rift between president, Senate Republicans continues to grow

Trump blows up spy bill after
GOP says ‘no’ to voter ID bill

DAVID MORGAN
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s derailment of a Senate plan to pass a key national security bill this week is only the latest example of a growing rift with Senate Republicans, who are more willing to defy the commander-in-chief in the run-up to the November midterm elections.

Aiming to protect his controversial choice of loyalist Bill Pulte as acting U.S. spy chief, Trump forced the Senate Intelligence Committee to postpone a confirmation hearing for U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton,

his permanent nominee for director of national security, who Republicans had hoped to fast-track into the job.

“He made a colossal mistake,” Republican Sen. Thom Tillis said of the president’s move. “It’s undermining our ability to produce the very results he wants.”

It was the latest in a series of actions by Trump that have upended Senate Republican plans to move major legislation intended to forward his agenda. Last month, his announcement of a \$1.8 billion “antiweaponization” fund to compensate political allies who claim to have been victimized by federal authorities stalled a \$70 billion bill to fund his immigration crackdown.

Please see RIFT, Page A2