Trump says 'I don't think about Americans' financial situation' in Iran negotiations

"I think about one thing: we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon," he said.



Trump says 'I don't think about Americans' financial situation' in Iran negotiations President Donald Trump said Americans' financial situation was "not even a little bit" of a motivating factor for him reaching a deal to end the war in Iran.

By Karen Travers, Emily Chang, and Fritz Farrow
May 12, 2026, 3:15 PM

Follow ABC News on Google | Share

President Donald Trump said Americans' financial situation was "not even a little bit" of a motivating factor for him reaching a deal to end the war in Iran, despite a new report that inflation rose for a second consecutive month and hit a three-year high.

Trump made the comment on Tuesday as he took questions from reporters as he left the White House for a high-stakes trip to China.

"Not even a little bit," the president said when asked to what extent Americans' financial situations were motivating him to make a deal with Iran, as the war stretches into its 11th week.

"The only thing that matters when I'm talking about Iran, they can't have a nuclear weapon," Trump continued. "I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anybody. I think about one thing: we cannot let Iran have a nuclear weapon. That's all."

Related
Trump floats suspending the federal gas tax amid rising prices

ABC News White House Correspondent Karen Travers pressed Trump to clarify whether he was considering the financial impact of the war on Americans. He doubled down.

"The most important thing, by far, is Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon," Trump said.

"What about the pressure on Americans and prices, right now?" ABC's Travers asked.

"Every American understands," Trump said.

He added, "They understand that Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon. If Iran has a nuclear weapon, the whole world would be in trouble because they happen to be crazy."



President Donald Trump speaks to the press as he departs the White House, May 12, 2026 in Washington.
Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

Democrats quickly responded to Trump's comment. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer reshared a video of Trump's comments on X and captioned his post "We can tell."

When pressed on his 2024 campaign promise to bring down inflation in light of Tuesday's report showing prices rose 3.8% in April compared to last year, Trump insisted his policies are "working incredibly."

A recent poll from ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos found about two-thirds of Americans (65%) disapproved of how Trump is handling the economy. About three-quarters of Americans disapprove of how Trump is handling the cost of living in the U.S. (76%) with just about a quarter approving (23%). Nearly as many disapprove of how he's handling inflation (72%), up from 65% who disapproved in February.

Several of the poll's participants spoke to ABC News about the financial strain they're experiencing because of soaring gas prices.

Related
After months of war with Iran, people across the US say they're feeling the strain of high gas prices

As of Tuesday, the national average for a gallon of gas in the U.S. was $4.50, according to data from AAA, up more than $1.50 since the war began in late February.

Trump, who on Monday floated a gas tax holiday to bring some financial relief to Americans, reiterated on Tuesday his belief that prices will go back down once the conflict comes to an end.

"When it’s over, you’re going to have a massive drop in the price of oil," Trump told reporters.

Related Topics

President Trump | Economy | Iran

Sponsored Content by Taboola

ABC News Network Privacy Policy Your US State Privacy Rights Children's Online Privacy Policy Interest-Based Ads About Nielsen Measurement Terms of Use
Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information Contact Us
© 2026 ABC News