



Legislative Update on US-Israel Relations

Recent News:

Since August 8th, terrorists in the Gaza Strip have fired 200 rockets into Southern Israel. Despite an unconditional ceasefire that began on August 1, Hamas militants have continued to fire missiles into Israel, many of them directed against our partnership regions, Netivot and Sedot Negev. Israeli citizens have been advised to stay in bomb shelters, and in addition to damage to homes and fields, many people are being treated for trauma.

According to AIPAC, four times as many rockets were fired from Gaza in the last two days than in the last two years combined. Although Hamas says that there are moves towards a truce, they continue to fire rockets into Israel, the latest in a series of escalations that include arson balloons and kites and sniper attacks along the borders.

Israel has responded to these attacks targeting rocket launch areas, tunnels and other terrorist infrastructure and the IDF will continue to take action to secure the integrity of the border and the safety of their citizens.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-strikes-hamas-posts-in-gaza-as-fresh-rocket-sirens-sound-in-south/>

Congressman Fitzpatrick's Legislative Actions:

Congressman Fitzpatrick voted for **H. Res 11**, which calls for the repeal of UN Security Council Resolution 2334 which effectively states that the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Western Wall are "occupied territory."

- Additionally, it makes clear that the Obama Administration's failure to veto this resolution violated longstanding U.S. policy to protect Israel. The U.S. has vetoed 42 anti-Israel resolutions since 1972.

- **Statement:** “Israel and the United States share a special relationship, cultivated and reaffirmed in word and action. Unfortunately, the current administration’s recent failure to defend Israel from a one-sided initiative at the U.N. harms our critical alliance by breaking with decades of precedent and undermining the prospect for productive negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Support for a safe and secure Israel transcends political parties and should be the cornerstone of any Middle East foreign policy. Our foreign policy must recognize that a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only come about through direct, bilateral negotiations between the two parties.” – *Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, Jan 10, 2017*

Expressed support for U.S. Embassy opening in Jerusalem

- “The United States first recognized Israel as an independent state seventy years ago. Since then, Israel has become the strongest democracy in the region. Today, America proudly opens an embassy in Israel’s self-determined capital, Jerusalem. A bipartisan majority of Congress has been calling for this important action since the Jerusalem Embassy Act overwhelmingly passed in 1995. As one of our closest security partners, the United States will not allow Israel to be isolated. Together we will continue to strengthen our relationship and promote peace and stability throughout the region.” - *Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, May 14, 2018*

Voted for and cosponsored the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act, H.R. 1698, (323 cosponsors, awaiting Senate Action)

- Requires a comprehensive investigation to identify and designate the companies, banks, and individuals – both inside and outside Iran – which supply the regime’s missile and conventional weapons programs, subjecting them to sanctions.
- **Statement:** “The nuclear deal with Iran, the world’s largest state-sponsor of terror, was misguided from the start and was rammed through despite the bipartisan objection of Congress and an overwhelming majority of the American people. But even after its enactment there have been serious concerns regarding its enforcement, stipulations and side-deals.” – *Rep Brian Fitzpatrick, Oct. 26, 2017*

Voted for H.R. 3364 Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Signed into law)

- Bill directs the President to impose sanctions against: (1) Iran's ballistic missile or weapons of mass destruction programs, (2) the sale or transfer to Iran of military equipment or the provision of related technical or financial assistance, and (3) Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated foreign persons. The President may impose sanctions against persons responsible for violations of internationally recognized human rights committed against individuals in Iran.

Cosponsored and voted for H.R.1164 Taylor Force Act (Signed into Law)

- This bill prohibits certain assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 from being made available for the West Bank and Gaza unless the Department of State certifies that the Palestinian Authority:
 - Takes steps to end acts of violence against U.S. and Israeli citizens perpetrated by individuals under its jurisdictional control, such as the March 2016 attack that killed former Army officer Taylor Force;
 - Publicly condemns such acts of violence and is investigating, or cooperating in investigations of, such acts; and
 - Terminates payments for acts of terrorism against U.S. and Israeli citizens to any individual who has been convicted and imprisoned for such acts, to any individual who died committing such acts, and to family members of such an individual.

Cosponsored H.R.5141 United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018

- This bill makes improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize assistance for Israel.
- Affirms the policy of the United States to provide assistance to the Government of Israel in order to support funding for cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure missile, rocket, projectile, and other defense capabilities to help Israel meet its security needs and to help develop and enhance United States defense capabilities.
- This bi-partisan bill supports \$3.3 billion in security assistance to Israel and \$500 million in cooperative missile defense funding in FY 2019 as called for in the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding on security assistance.

Cosponsored H.R.2856 Combating BDS Act of 2017

- This bill allows a state or local government to adopt and enforce measures to divest its assets from, prohibit investment of its assets in, or restrict contracting with: (1) an entity that engages in a commerce- or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activity targeting Israel; or (2) an entity that owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with such an entity. Such measures are not preempted by federal law.

Cosponsored H.R.1697 Israel Anti-Boycott Act

- This bill declares that Congress: (1) opposes the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution of March 24, 2016, which urges countries to pressure companies to divest from, or break contracts with, Israel; and (2) encourages full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 through enhanced,

governmentwide, coordinated U.S.-Israel scientific and technological cooperation in civilian areas.

- The bill amends the Export Administration Act of 1979 to declare that it shall be U.S. policy to oppose:
 - Requests by foreign countries to impose restrictive practices or boycotts against other countries friendly to the United States or against U.S. persons; and
 - Restrictive trade practices or boycotts fostered or imposed by an international governmental organization, or requests to impose such practices or boycotts, against Israel.
- The bill prohibits any U.S. person engaged interstate or foreign commerce from supporting:
 - Any request by a foreign country to impose any boycott against a country that is friendly to the United States and that is not itself the object of any form of boycott pursuant to United States law or regulation, or
 - Any boycott fostered or imposed by any international governmental organization against Israel or any request by any international governmental organization to impose such a boycott.
- The bill amends the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 to include as a reason for the Export-Import Bank to deny credit applications for the export of goods and services between the United States and foreign countries, opposition to policies and actions that are politically motivated and are intended to penalize or otherwise limit commercial relations specifically with citizens or residents of Israel, entities organized under the laws of Israel, or the government of Israel.

Cosponsored H.R.1911 Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2017

- Amends the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide that the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism shall have the rank of ambassador and be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.
- The Special Envoy shall: (1) be a person of recognized distinction in the field of combating anti-Semitism or religious freedom; (2) serve as the primary advisor to, and coordinate efforts across, the U.S. government relating to monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incitement in foreign countries; and (3) report directly to the Secretary of State.

Cosponsored H.R. 5924 Anti-Semitism Awareness Act

- Bill instructs the Department of Education to take account of the leading definition of anti-Semitism—adopted by the State Department in 2010—to help determine whether potentially actionable harassing and discriminatory conduct is motivated by anti-Semitism.

Cosponsored H.Res.835 Supporting robust relations with the State of Israel bilaterally and in multilateral fora upon seventy years of statehood

Cosponsored **H.J.Res.135 Supporting Israel's right to defend its borders**

Cosponsored **H.Res.276 Expressing the sense of the House that more should be done to instill Holocaust education in school curricula around the country**

Cosponsored **H.R.5460 Never Again Education Act**

- Bill authorizes the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust.