

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2833

To require the President to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of Israel, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Ms. TENNEY) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the President to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of Israel, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Defending Israel’s  
5       QME Act of 2017”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Israel is the strongest and most reliable  
2       strategic ally of the United States in the Middle  
3       East.

4           (2) Certain countries and non-state actors in  
5       the Middle East region have been at war, both de-  
6       clared and undeclared, with Israel since 1948.

7           (3) Since the time of the Reagan Administra-  
8       tion, the United States has worked to preserve  
9       Israel's qualitative military edge when considering  
10      the sale or export of defense articles or defense serv-  
11      ices to Israel or to others in the Middle East region.

12          (4) Ensuring a substantial qualitative military  
13      edge is critical to preserving Israel's safety and secu-  
14      rity.

15          (5) The United States Government has pro-  
16      posed to sell or export significant defense articles  
17      and defense services to countries in the Middle East  
18      region.

19 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20       It is the sense of Congress that the President should  
21      ensure that any sale or export of defense articles or de-  
22      fense services to countries in the Middle East region does  
23      not in any way adversely affect Israel's qualitative military  
24      edge.

1 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION RE-**  
2 **GARDING ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY**  
3 **EDGE.**

4 Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22  
5 U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
8 “and” at the end;

9 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the  
10 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(E) an assessment of—

13 “(i) the ability of Israel to effectively  
14 defend itself against military threats from  
15 regional non-state actors;

16 “(ii) the risk that is posed by the sale  
17 or export of a subsequent unauthorized  
18 transfer or proliferation of the equipment  
19 for use against Israel; and

20 “(iii) the effective countermeasures  
21 available to Israel to defend against such  
22 unauthorized transfer or proliferation.”;

23 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-  
24 graph (4); and

25 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2), as amend-  
26 ed by paragraph (1) of this section, the following:

1           “(3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Presi-  
2       dent shall seek to consult with appropriate officials  
3       of the Government of Israel for information regard-  
4       ing Israel’s qualitative military edge before making  
5       a determination under paragraph (1).”.

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