

peaceful and collaborative resolution of maritime and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea and the East China Sea as provided for by universally recognized principles of international law, and reaffirming the vital interest of the United States in freedom of navigation and other internationally lawful uses of sea and airspace in the Asia-Pacific region.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2673) to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2673

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The people and the Governments of the United States and of Israel share a deep and unbreakable bond, forged by over 60 years of shared interests and shared values.

(2) Today, the people and Governments of the United States and of Israel are facing a dynamic and rapidly changing security environment in the Middle East and North Africa, necessitating deeper cooperation on a range of defense, security, and intelligence matters.

(3) From Gaza, Hamas continues to deny Israel’s right to exist and persists in firing rockets indiscriminately at population centers in Israel.

(4) Hezbollah—with support from Iran—continues to stockpile rockets and may be seeking to exploit the tragic and volatile security situation within Syria.

(5) The Government of Iran continues to pose a grave threat to the region and the world at large with its reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

(6) Given these challenges, it is imperative that the United States continues to deepen cooperation with allies like Israel in pursuit of shared policy objectives.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to reaffirm the unwavering support of the people and the Government of the United States for the security of Israel as a Jewish state;

(2) to reaffirm the principles and objectives enshrined in the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150) and ensure its implementation to the fullest extent;

(3) to reaffirm the importance of the 2007 United States-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on United States assistance to Israel and the semi-annual Strategic Dialogue between the United States and Israel;

(4) to pursue every opportunity to deepen cooperation with Israel on a range of critical issues including defense, homeland security, energy, and cybersecurity;

(5) to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System; and

(6) to support the Government of Israel in its ongoing efforts to reach a negotiated political settlement with the Palestinian people that results in two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ISRAEL AS A MAJOR STRATEGIC PARTNER.

It is the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 1200(d) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-287; 118 Stat. 1011) is amended by striking “more than 10 years after” and inserting “more than 11 years after”.

(b) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “and 2014” and inserting “, 2014, and 2015”.

SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Israel—

(1) has adopted high standards in the field of export controls;

(2) has declared its unilateral adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, and the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and

(3) is a party to—

(A) the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, signed at Geneva October 10, 1980;

(B) the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva June 17, 1925; and

(C) the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna on October 26, 1979.

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION.—The President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international arrangements, shall take steps so that Israel may be included in the list of countries eligible for the strategic trade authorization exception under section 740.20(c)(1) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, to the requirement for a license for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of an item subject to controls under the Export Administration Regulations.

SEC. 7. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON ENERGY, WATER, HOMELAND SECURITY, AGRICULTURE, AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized, subject to existing law—

(1) to undertake activities in cooperation with Israel; and

(2) to provide assistance promoting cooperation in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, and alternative fuel technologies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the President is authorized, subject to existing requirements of law and any applicable agreements or understandings between the United States and Israel—

(1) to share and exchange with Israel research, technology, intelligence, information, equipment, and personnel, including through sales, leases, or exchanges in kind, that the President determines will advance the national security interests of the United States and are consistent with the Strategic Dialogue and pertinent provisions of law; and

(2) to enhance scientific cooperation between Israel and the United States.

(c) COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency and with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, is authorized, subject to existing law, to enter into cooperative research pilot programs with Israel to enhance Israel’s capabilities in—

- (1) border, maritime, and aviation security;
- (2) explosives detection; and
- (3) emergency services.

SEC. 8. REPORT ON INCREASED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ON CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report, in a classified format or including a classified annex, as appropriate, on the feasibility and advisability of expanding United States-Israeli cooperation on cyber issues, including sharing and advancing technologies related to the prevention of cybercrimes.

SEC. 9. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.

It shall be the policy of the United States to include Israel in the list of countries that participate in the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187) when Israel satisfies, and as long as Israel continues to satisfy, the requirements for inclusion in such program specified in such section.

SEC. 10. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 4 OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENHANCED SECURITY COOPERATION ACT OF 2012.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, to the extent practicable and in an appropriate manner, provide an update to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on current and future efforts undertaken by the President to fulfill the objectives of section 4 of the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act (22 U.S.C. 8603).

SEC. 11. IMPROVED REPORTING ON ENHANCING ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE AND SECURITY POSTURE.

(a) BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT REEVALUATIONS.—Section 201(c) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2776 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) BIENNIAL UPDATES.—Two years after the date on which each quadrennial report is transmitted to Congress, the President shall—

“(A) reevaluate the assessment required under subsection (a); and

“(B) inform and consult with the appropriate congressional committees on the results of the reevaluation conducted pursuant to subparagraph (A).”.

(b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINATION FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.—A determination under paragraph (1) relating to the sale or export of major defense equipment shall include—

“(A) a detailed explanation of Israel’s capacity to address the improved capabilities provided by such sale or export;

“(B) a detailed evaluation of—

“(i) how such sale or export alters the strategic and tactical balance in the region, including relative capabilities; and

“(ii) Israel’s capacity to respond to the improved regional capabilities provided by such sale or export;

“(C) an identification of any specific new capacity, capabilities, or training that Israel may require to address the regional or country-specific capabilities provided by such sale or export; and

“(D) a description of any additional United States security assurances to Israel made, or requested to be made, in connection with, or as a result of, such sale or export.”.

SEC. 12. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY CO-OPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 917(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “possible many” and inserting “possible—

“(A) many”;

(B) by adding at the end the following: “and

“(B) significant contributions to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency through the established programs of the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation;”;

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”;

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(4) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking “renewable” and inserting “covered”;

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) United States-Israel energy cooperation and the development of natural resources by Israel are in the strategic interest of the United States;

“(9) Israel is a strategic partner of the United States in water technology;

“(10) the United States can play a role in assisting Israel with regional safety and security issues;

“(11) the National Science Foundation of the United States, to the extent consistent with the National Science Foundation’s mission, should collaborate with the Israel Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation;

“(12) the United States and Israel should strive to develop more robust academic cooperation in—

“(A) energy innovation technology and engineering;

“(B) water science;

“(C) technology transfer; and

“(D) analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response;

“(13) the United States supports the goals of the Alternative Fuels Administration of Israel with respect to expanding the use of alternative fuels;

“(14) the United States strongly urges open dialogue and continued mechanisms for regular engagement and encourages further cooperation between applicable departments, agencies, ministries, institutions of higher education, and the private sector of the United States and Israel on energy security issues, including—

“(A) identifying policy priorities associated with the development of natural resources of Israel;

“(B) discussing and sharing best practices to secure cyber energy infrastructure and other energy security matters;

“(C) leveraging natural gas to positively impact regional stability;

“(D) issues relating to the energy-water nexus, including improving energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, water treatment in gas and oil production processes, and other water treatment refiners;

“(E) technical and environmental management of deep-water exploration and production;

“(F) emergency response and coastal protection and restoration;

“(G) academic outreach and engagement;

“(H) private sector and business development engagement;

“(I) regulatory consultations;

“(J) leveraging alternative transportation fuels and technologies; and

“(K) any other areas determined appropriate by the United States and Israel;

“(15) the United States—

“(A) acknowledges the achievements and importance of the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation; and

“(B) supports continued multiyear funding to ensure the continuity of the programs of the foundations specified in subparagraph (A); and

“(16) the United States and Israel have a shared interest in addressing immediate, near-term, and long-term energy, energy poverty, energy independence, and environmental challenges facing the United States and Israel, respectively.”.

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 917(b) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “renewable energy or energy efficiency” and inserting “covered energy”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) natural gas energy, including conventional and unconventional natural gas technologies and other associated technologies, and natural gas projects conducted by or in conjunction with the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the United States-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation; and

“(I) improvement of energy efficiency and the overall performance of water technologies through research and development in water desalination, wastewater treatment and reclamation, and other water treatment refiners.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “energy efficiency or renewable” and inserting “covered”.

(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS; REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—

(1) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 917 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17337) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d);

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e);

(C) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, subject to the availability of appropriations, may enter into cooperative agreements supporting and enhancing dialogue and planning involving international partnerships between the Department, including National Laboratories of the Department, and the Govern-

ment of Israel and its ministries, offices, and institutions.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Secretary may not pay more than 50 percent of Federal share of the costs of implementing cooperative agreements entered into pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(3) ANNUAL REPORTS.—If the Secretary enters into agreements authorized by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives that describes—

“(A) actions taken to implement such agreements; and

“(B) any projects undertaken pursuant to such agreements.

“(d) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ENERGY CENTER.—The Secretary may establish a joint United States-Israel Energy Center in the United States leveraging the experience, knowledge, and expertise of institutions of higher education and entities in the private sector, among others, in offshore energy development to further dialogue and collaboration to develop more robust academic cooperation in energy innovation technology and engineering, water science, technology transfer, and analysis of emerging geopolitical implications, crises and threats from foreign natural resource and energy acquisitions, and the development of domestic resources as a response.”; and

(D) in subsection (e), as redesignated, by striking “the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “September 30, 2024”.

(2) CONSTRUCTIVE REGIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.—The Secretary of State shall continue the ongoing diplomacy efforts of the Secretary of State in—

(A) engaging and supporting the energy security of Israel; and

(B) promoting constructive regional energy cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a long time coming, but I am so pleased that we finally have an opportunity to send to the President’s desk the bill before us, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act.

I authored the original bill, alongside my Florida colleague, my good friend

Mr. DEUTCH, and together we introduced it in the House almost 2 years ago. Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and their staffs were immensely supportive in pushing this bill through, and we ultimately passed the House version, H.R. 938, in this body in March, with an overwhelming vote of 410-1.

I want to thank our colleagues in the other Chamber, Senator BOXER and Senator BLUNT, for introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

Today is, indeed, a significant day in the history of the United States-Israel relationship. Our bill takes the already strong bond between our two countries and makes it even stronger.

In the aftermath of this summer's Gaza conflict, in which we saw Hamas fire thousands of rockets indiscriminately into innocent Israeli civilian populations, and with the alarming rise in terror attacks in Jerusalem these past few weeks, well, Mr. Speaker, now is precisely the time for us to make this bill a law.

Our bill is as important strategically as it is symbolically. It shows the world how deeply America values its bilateral relationship with Israel, affording the democratic Jewish state the unique label of major strategic partner of the United States.

At a time when many around the world seek to test our resolve and our commitment to our friend and ally, passing this bill will reaffirm an unwavering commitment to Israel, to its right to defend herself and her citizens, and redoubles our efforts to ensure that Israel always maintains a qualitative military edge over its enemies.

Israel has many enemies, like Hamas. Hamas is, no doubt, planning its next assault against our ally.

Hezbollah, another enemy which may be preoccupied right now in Syria, certainly has not forgotten its desire to wipe out Israel, especially not when its patron, the Iranian regime, continues to incite violence against Israel and calls for its very destruction.

Iran's Supreme Leader, while he is telling his people to continue to string along the P5+1 countries in the nuclear negotiations under the ruse of wanting to reach an agreement, is calling for all Palestinians in the West Bank to take up arms against Israel.

And while the administration continues to extend and negotiate a very weak and dangerous Iran nuclear deal, it is important that we in the United States Congress send a signal to Khamenei and Rouhani and all the mullahs in Iran that the United States Congress will not undermine our ally, Israel, for a regime that cannot be trusted and is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism.

This bill will do that, Mr. Speaker. It will do that and much more, and I am so honored to have led the charge, with Mr. ROYCE, with Mr. ENGEL, with Mr. DEUTCH, in getting this bill to the President's desk. I look forward to it finally becoming law.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2673, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, the chair of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, and Mr. DEUTCH, the ranking member of that subcommittee, for authoring the House version of this legislation, which passed by a vote of 410-1 on March 5 of this year.

I will have to figure out who that one is.

They have worked tirelessly, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. DEUTCH, with their Senate counterparts, Senators BOXER and BLUNT, to send this bill to the President.

This legislation would reaffirm our support for the U.S.-Israel relationship at a time of unprecedented threats.

In the north, Israel sees Syria engulfed in a civil war that has killed upwards of 200,000 people. The extremists who have filled the vacuum of leadership, like the al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra front, are sitting right on Israel's border. They even kidnapped U.N. peacekeepers tasked with keeping that border calm.

From Jordan, typically a quiet ally, we have seen some ugly rhetoric over the past few weeks. After terrorists seized a synagogue and slaughtered rabbis in their place of worship, the Jordanian Parliament praised the so-called martyrs who perpetrated this heinous attack.

This summer's war against Hamas and Gaza left the Israeli public acutely aware of their own vulnerabilities. For years, Israelis on border towns have said that they have heard digging underneath their feet, scratches and vibrations that kept them up at night.

It turns out they were right. Hamas was digging tunnels in order to kidnap Israeli civilians and soldiers, or perpetrate large-scale terrorist attacks in some of Israel's largest cities.

I stood with Chairman ROYCE in one of those tunnels just a couple of months ago. We were also with Mr. ROHRBACHER, and we looked at those tunnels. It was just amazing. They were solidly-constructed and well-engineered.

I couldn't help but wonder what Gaza would look like today if Hamas had put those resources into building schools or hospitals or a modern infrastructure for the Palestinian people. But they didn't. They, instead, made them terror tunnels. What a waste.

Hamas is now a legitimate political actor. It uses violence to gain power. It sees no value in human life, neither its Israeli victims nor its Palestinian human shields. And we did pass a resolution earlier this year condemning Hamas' use of innocent civilians as human shields.

And, of course, Israel faces the existential threat of Iran and its illicit nu-

clear weapons program. Even as talks continue between the P5+1 and Iran, Tehran continues to support international terrorism that targets Jews in Israel and other parts of the world.

Israel is a bright light, Mr. Speaker, in a very, very dark region, the only democracy in the Middle East, and a valued ally of the United States. That is why we are considering this bill to strengthen our relationship with the state and the people of Israel, and to send a clear and unmistakable message to Israel's foes, and that message is: America stands with Israel.

Specifically, this bill would build on our robust defense cooperation. It would ramp up U.S.-Israel collaboration on cybersecurity, expand U.S.-Israel energy cooperation, and reaffirm our commitment to Israel's QME, or qualitative military edge.

This legislation names Israel as a major strategic partner, demonstrating that our relationship is not transactional, it is not assistance-based. Our relationship is based on shared cultural, societal, and historical ties, and is clearly ingrained in the values we hold dear. It is mutually beneficial and serves the strategic interests of both countries.

Again, in my trip to Israel with Chairman ROYCE and Mr. ROHRBACHER and Mr. GREGORY MEEKS, we understood why America stands with Israel.

So, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It is very important. It is very important that we do this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. NITA LOWEY, who is the ranking member of the Appropriations subcommittee which deals with all of these important issues.

Mrs. LOWEY. I want to thank all of the authors of this bill for your important work, and I appreciate your bringing these issues once again to the attention of my colleagues and to all of those who are watching us this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act.

During a period of tremendous turmoil in the Middle East, the passage of this important legislation sends a strong signal to our steadfast ally that the United States Congress remains fully committed to its security.

This bill, which I cosponsored, supports greater U.S.-Israeli cooperation on a number of fronts, including energy, cybersecurity, homeland security, and agriculture. It also extends the authorization for U.S. weapons to be stored in Israel in case they are needed by either of our countries to respond to an emergency.

Additionally, this bill provides for the greater congressional oversight of Israel's qualitative military edge over its neighbors, a status that remains absolutely critical to Israel's ongoing security needs. Lastly, this bill encourages Israel's inclusion in the Visa Waiver Program and supports a greater engagement with Israel on meeting the program's requirements.

I remain committed to making it easier for young Israelis to travel to the United States. As I have said before, our visa policies should reflect the unbreakable bond between our nations and people.

Supporting Israel, our strongest ally and the only democracy in the region, remains a vital component of protecting U.S. national security interests.

As ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, I will continue to fight to provide Israel with the resources it requires to secure its borders and protect its citizens.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, Mr. TED DEUTCH, one of the authors of this bill.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is taking up the Senate version of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, a bill that passed this Chamber in March with a vote of 410-1. Our vote today will send this important piece of legislation to the President's desk.

I am particularly grateful for the efforts of my colleagues on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, notably those by Chairman ED ROYCE; by ranking member and my friend, ELIOT ENGEL, for helping to ensure this legislation's passage; by the Senate sponsors, Senator BOXER and Senator BLUNT; and by my friend, chairman, and stalwart champion of the U.S.-Israel relationship, chairman emeritus ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

I would also like to offer a special thanks as well to Casey Kustin, in my office; to Eddy Acevedo; and to the entire committee staff, including Matt Zweig and Mira Resnick, who worked so hard to bring this bill to the floor at this moment.

This critical bill enhances the broad cooperation between the United States and Israel on a wide spectrum of issues, and it reflects the simple truth that our bilateral relationship spans not only shared security interests but shared values.

This bill was crafted with particular consideration of the heightened security situation faced by Israel today. This summer's Operation Protective Edge reminds us just how vital and strong U.S. support for Israel can be as the Iron Dome missile defense system saved tens of thousands of lives by taking down hundreds of Hamas rockets aimed at civilians and as the U.S. was able to quickly assist Israel in the re-

supply of defense articles, so that it could defend its citizens from brutal terror attacks.

The United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act also highlights Israel's significant contributions to the areas of water, irrigation, agriculture, and energy issues by expanding collaborative research efforts. It recognizes that the United States is strengthened by these joint efforts with Israel to tackle shared problems and to advance shared interests.

Through dire security threats and unimaginable hostility from the outside actors, the State of Israel has managed to thrive as an open and free democratic society, and it has prospered into a global leader in research and development in countless fields.

This bill, the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act, sends a clear and a bipartisan message to our ally Israel and to the rest of the world that the U.S.-Israel relationship runs wide and deep, that our commitment to the lasting safety and security of Israel is and always will be unbreakable, and that our work together not only in security but in agriculture, cybersecurity, water, and energy advances the interests of our Nation, as well as those of our great ally.

I urge my colleagues to support the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that I am very proud to help send this bill to the President's desk. This is really significant and important.

The United States stands with Israel during these challenging times, and deepening our ties with Israel will only help strengthen our mutually beneficial relationship. Let me say that again, "mutually beneficial relationship."

It benefits both countries to have the kind of relationship that we have with Israel. It benefits both countries because we have shared values and care about democracy. It benefits both countries because we share intelligence and do so many things together as closest allies.

This is a very important piece of legislation, and I urge everyone to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is in our national security interests of the United States to strengthen our relationship with our strongest ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Our two nations share more than just a strategic partnership—we share the same values; we share the same ideals. The United States and Israel are both freedom-loving and democratic nations that serve as a model of how free and open societies can work and can thrive, but it is also our belief in these ideals that has made us a target by those who

seek to oppress their people and impose strict laws that govern their everyday lives and restrict their freedom of expression and their freedom of religion.

The citizens of the United States and of Israel speak openly, and we live honestly, but our enemies hate everything that we stand for, and they will stop at nothing to harm or destroy our way of life.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is so important that we continue to strengthen our relationship with Israel and support its right to defend itself and its citizens, and that is exactly what we will be doing when we pass this bill.

I would like to say to my Florida colleague, Mr. DEUTCH, that it has been a joy to have joined him in our recent trip to Israel, and I have greatly enjoyed our Florida road trip as we speak around our great State about the strength and the vitality of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2673, the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act. I'd like to note that the groundwork for this legislation was laid when the House-passed H.R. 938 by a vote of 410-1 in March. I would like to recognize the Gentlewoman from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and the Gentleman from Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, for their leadership in authoring that important measure. With passage of this legislation today, this bill now goes to the President's desk for his signature.

I also want to thank the Ranking Member of the Committee, the Gentleman from New York, Mr. ENGEL, for his assistance in bringing this legislation to the floor and for his long-standing support for the State of Israel. Over the past two years, Mr. ENGEL and I have had the chance to travel twice to Israel together as Chair and Ranking Member, showing bipartisan support for the relationship.

We witnessed together the many factors that drive our relationship. Israel is a pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms we cherish: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Our militaries hold combined exercises where they constantly learn from each other. A key collaboration here has been in missile defense. Jointly developed and produced by the U.S. and Israeli militaries, the Arrow defense system, Iron Dome, and David's Sling system—which is currently under development—will soon be combined to create the world's most sophisticated missile shields. And given the threats Israel faces, this is needed now more than ever. This summer, once again we saw how the Iron Dome helped save innocent Israeli lives, giving its leaders breathing room and preventing more bloodshed. Congress can be proud of its role in backing the Iron Dome.

But we must always be working to ensure that our support for Israel keeps apace with the threats proliferating against the country—from Iran to Hamas.

That is why today's legislation is important. Once signed into law, it will expedite the provision of critical security assistance to Israel by ushering in an expedited licensing regime and

increasing the U.S. war reserves stockpile, for Israel to access, if needed. It will also require more frequent and detailed reporting on Israel's Qualitative Military edge—a provision which is the direct result of Mr. COLLINS' good efforts—so I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his contribution. Finally, the legislation will expand our cooperation with Israel on energy research and development.

I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleagues Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. DEUTCH who worked on the House version of this much-needed and timely bill.

This substantive bill expands our relationship with our closest ally by formally declaring Israel a "major strategic partner" of the U.S. It provides for increased cooperation in many spheres, including homeland security, cyber security, defense and intelligence, as well as water, energy, agriculture, and alternative fuels. This will send a signal to Israel's enemies that, despite their manipulative and dishonest global campaign against Israel, the U.S.-Israel relationship continues to deepen—as it should. It is right and good for both of our countries.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is largely a response to anti-Semitism—to militant, military and terrorist, and profoundly evil expressions of anti-Semitism. That's what poisons the hearts and minds of those who launch rockets at Israel and tunnel under its borders.

As we see on a sickeningly regular basis, many governments in the Middle East (and elsewhere) propagate anti-Semitic incitement as an official or quasi-official state ideology—the hate that still kills. They do this in order to distract people from their own authoritarian rule and human rights abuses. This constant incitement is a major factor in the security situation in the Middle East. In February of last year I chaired a hearing at which we heard important testimony from Dr. Zuhdi Jasser on this subject. He made the point that it is not only Jews who suffer from this incitement, but that Muslims suffer too, as Middle-Eastern despots deploy anti-Semitism as one of their principal tools in the subjugation and impoverishment of entire Muslim peoples.

Mr. Speaker, this bill fights the evil effects of anti-Semitism. I urge my colleagues to support this outstanding bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2673.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I have got a heavy heart because I feel like, in just the short time you and I have been in this body, we have seen the same

story play out more than once. You would like to think that we would all learn from our mistakes in this body.

In fact, I don't fault any of my colleagues who make mistakes. I am one of the folks who is guilty of having made a mistake before, Mr. Speaker, and I am not going to put you in that same box; but, yes, I have made a mistake before. The question isn't: "Do you make mistakes?" The question is: "What do you learn from your mistakes?"

As we go down this road of executive action, this conversation that the country is having today, I feel like we have been down this road before, and I want to try to connect a couple of those dots for folks tonight, Mr. Speaker.

You can't see what I have here, but it is something that is near and dear to your heart. It is article II, section 2, of the United States Constitution.

It says:

The President shall have the power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their session.

Now, you wonder why this is important. It is just one paragraph in a relatively lengthy and really meaty Constitution. The answer is because it defines the relationship between the article I, Congress, and the article II, White House.

It says, White House, if you want to make appointments to positions of great power, of great authority, in the United States Government, you must do so with the advice and consent of the United States Senate, that the Senate must confirm all of those individuals the President wishes to place in these positions of great power.

The President back in 2012, 2011, had some folks he wanted to appoint to positions of great responsibility. One of those was to the National Labor Relations Board. You will recall this, Mr. Speaker. The President made some nominations, and the Senate said, "No, this isn't going to fly."

Now, the President could have gone back and said: "Do you know what? If you don't like these nominees, this is an important job, it is an important responsibility, I am going to appoint some different nominees. I am going to put some different names out there. I am going to work with you to try to find some folks we can agree on as the Constitution requires."

It is not what the President did. In fact, there is a pattern of that not being what the President does.

What the President did instead of working with the Senate—what the President did instead of offering some different names—what the President did instead of trying to find common ground was he went to this article II, section 2, of the United States Constitution and said: "I have the power to fill these spots without anybody else's advice or counsel, without anybody else's consent, as long as I do it during recess."

He woke up one morning, and he declared the Senate in recess, and he made these appointments. Now, that would be all well and good, Mr. Speaker, if the Senate had, in fact, been in recess, but the Senate was not in recess.

I have here on a chart, Mr. Speaker, a quote from Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID. It is November 16, 2007, when President Bush was still the President of the United States. He, too, wanted to make some nominations. The Senate then, as in 2012, disagreed with those nominations and didn't want to appoint those people.

Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID said this:

The Senate will be coming in for pro forma sessions during the Thanksgiving holiday to prevent recess appointments. My hope is that this will prompt the President to see that it is in our mutual interests for the nominations process to get back on track.

Hear that, Mr. Speaker? Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID said to then-President George Bush: "I don't like the folks you are trying to nominate. I disagree with you on those nominations, so I am going to keep the Senate in, in pro forma session, to prevent you from nominating those folks during a period of recess, to prevent you from using article II, section 2. I hope that will encourage you to come and work with us together to find folks who are mutually agreeable for these positions."

In November 2007, HARRY REID kept the Senate in session, these pro forma sessions, all through the Thanksgiving holiday.

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I now bring you to December 19, 2007, later that same year. Again, Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID said this: I could be a grinch. I could tell the President that I would not move any nominations, given his demand to make controversial recess appointments. But I am not going to do that tonight, Mr. President. I am not going to meet intransigence with intransigence. We will confirm those appointments this evening, and I will keep the Senate in pro forma session to block the President from doing an end run around the Senate and the Constitution with his other controversial nominees.

Hear that: Getting ready to head home for Christmas, Senator HARRY REID said to then-President George Bush: I will not let you do an end run around the Constitution by appointing individuals to these powerful positions across the government without the consent of the Senate. I will not let you do it, and I will prevent you from doing it by keeping the Senate in pro forma session during the holidays.

Pro forma session means you are in once every 3 days. That is how the law defines it. You come in once every 3 days. It doesn't count as a recess. HARRY REID knows this. It is the tool that he uses to prevent then-President