

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1715

UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2497) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2497

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Appropriate congressional committees defined.

TITLE I—SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL

Sec. 101. Findings.
Sec. 102. Statement of policy regarding Israel’s defense systems.
Sec. 103. Assistance for Israel.
Sec. 104. Extension of war reserves stockpile authority.
Sec. 105. Extension of loan guarantees to Israel.
Sec. 106. Transfer of precision guided munitions to Israel.
Sec. 107. Sense of Congress on rapid acquisition and deployment procedures.
Sec. 108. Eligibility of Israel for the strategic trade authorization exception to certain export control licensing requirements.

TITLE II—ENHANCED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION

Sec. 201. United States-Israel space cooperation.
Sec. 202. United States Agency for International Development-Israel enhanced partnership for development cooperation in developing nations.
Sec. 203. Authority to enter into a cooperative project agreement with Israel to counter unmanned aerial vehicles that threaten the United States or Israel.

TITLE III—ENSURING ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE

Sec. 301. Statement of policy.

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

TITLE I—SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL

SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In February 1987, the United States granted Israel major non-NATO ally status.

(2) On August 16, 2007, the United States and Israel signed a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding on United States military assistance to Israel. The total assistance over the course of this understanding would equal \$30,000,000,000.

(3) On July 27, 2012, the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150; 22 U.S.C. 8601 et seq.) declared it to be the policy of the United States “to help the Government of Israel preserve its qualitative military edge amid rapid and uncertain regional political transformation” and stated the sense of Congress that the United States Government should “provide the Government of Israel defense articles and defense services through such mechanisms as appropriate, to include air refueling tankers, missile defense capabilities, and specialized munitions”.

(4) On December 19, 2014, President Barack Obama signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296) which stated the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States and declared it to be the policy of the United States “to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System”.

(5) Section 1679 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92; 129 Stat. 1135) authorized funds to be appropriated for Israeli cooperative missile defense program codelvelopment and coproduction, including funds to be provided to the Government of Israel to procure the David’s Sling weapon system as well as the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program.

(6) On September 14, 2016, the United States and Israel signed a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming the importance of continuing annual United States military assistance to Israel and cooperative missile defense programs in a way that enhances Israel’s security and strengthens the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

(7) The 2016 Memorandum of Understanding reflected United States support of Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grant assistance to Israel over the ten year period beginning in fiscal year 2019 and ending in fiscal year 2028. FMF grant assistance would be at a level of \$3,300,000,000 annually, totaling \$33,000,000,000, the largest single pledge of military assistance ever and a reiteration of the seven-decade, unshakeable, bipartisan commitment of the United States to Israel’s security.

(8) The Memorandum of Understanding also reflected United States support for funding for cooperative programs to develop, produce, and procure missile, rocket, and projectile defense capabilities over a ten year period beginning in fiscal year 2019 and ending in fiscal year 2028 at a level of \$500,000,000 per year, totaling \$5,000,000,000.

SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING ISRAEL’S DEFENSE SYSTEMS.

It shall be 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.

SEC. 103. ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL.

Section 513(c) of the Security Assistance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-280; 114 Stat. 856) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2002 and 2003” and inserting “2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “equal to—” and inserting “not less than \$3,300,000,000.”; and

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B).

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AUTHORITY.

Section 514(b)(2)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018” and inserting “2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.”.

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL.

Chapter 5 of title I of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 108-11; 117 Stat. 576) is amended under the heading “LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL”—

(1) in the matter preceding the first proviso, by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2023”; and

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “September 30, 2019” and inserting “September 30, 2023”.

SEC. 106. TRANSFER OF PRECISION GUIDED MUNITIONS TO ISRAEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h), the President is authorized to transfer such quantities of precision guided munitions from reserve stocks to Israel as necessary for legitimate self-defense and otherwise consistent with the purposes and conditions for such transfers under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

(b) CERTIFICATIONS.—Except in case of emergency, not later than 5 days before making a transfer under this section, the President shall certify in an unclassified notification to the appropriate congressional committees that the transfer of the precision guided munitions—

(1) does not affect the ability of the United States to maintain a sufficient supply of precision guided munitions;

(2) does not harm the combat readiness of the United States or the ability of the United States to meet its commitment to allies for the transfer of such munitions;

(3) is necessary for Israel to counter the threat of rockets in a timely fashion; and

(4) is in the national security interest of the United States.

SEC. 107. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RAPID ACQUISITION AND DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should prescribe procedures for the rapid acquisition and deployment of precision guided munitions for United States counterterrorism missions, or to assist an ally of the United States, including Israel, that is subject to direct missile threat.

SEC. 108. ELIGIBILITY OF ISRAEL FOR THE STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN EXPORT CONTROL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

(3) Israel 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 October 26, 1979.

(4) Section 6(b) of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 8603 note) directs the President, consistent with the commitments of the United States under international agreements, to 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.

(b) REPORT ON ELIGIBILITY FOR STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the steps taken pursuant to section 6(b) of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 8603 note).

(2) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be provided in unclassified form, but may contain a classified portion.

TITLE II—ENHANCED UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION

SEC. 201. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL SPACE COOPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Authorized in 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) supports and coordinates United States Government research in aeronautics, human exploration and operations, science, and space technology.

(2) Established in 1983, the Israel Space Agency (ISA) supports the growth of Israel's space industry by supporting academic research, technological innovation, and educational activities.

(3) The mutual interest of the United States and Israel in space exploration affords both nations an opportunity to leverage their unique abilities to advance scientific discovery.

(4) In 1996, NASA and the ISA entered into an agreement outlining areas of mutual cooperation, which remained in force until 2005.

(5) Since 1996, NASA and the ISA have successfully cooperated on many space programs supporting the Global Positioning System and research related to the sun, earth science, and the environment.

(6) The bond between NASA and the ISA was permanently forged on February 1, 2003, with the loss of the crew of STS-107, including Israeli Astronaut Ilan Ramon.

(7) On October 13, 2015, the United States and Israel signed the Framework Agreement between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America and the Israel Space Agency for Cooperation in Aeronautics and the Exploration and Use of Airspace and Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

(b) CONTINUING COOPERATION.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall continue to work with the Israel Space Agency to identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest, taking all appropriate measures to protect sensitive information, intellectual property, trade secrets, and economic interests of the United States.

SEC. 202. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT-ISRAEL ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING NATIONS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It should be the policy of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to partner with Israel in order to advance common goals across a wide variety of sectors, including energy, agriculture and food security, democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, environment, global health, and water and sanitation.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to enter into memoranda of understanding with Israel in order to enhance coordination on advancing common goals on energy, agriculture and food security, democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, environment, global health, and water and sanitation with a focus on strengthening mutual ties and cooperation with nations throughout the world.

SEC. 203. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL TO COUNTER UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES THAT THREATEN THE UNITED STATES OR ISRAEL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On February 10, 2018, Iran launched from Syria an unmanned aerial vehicle (commonly known as a “drone”) that penetrated Israeli airspace.

(2) According to a press report, the unmanned aerial vehicle was in Israeli airspace for a minute and a half before being shot down by its air force.

(3) Senior Israeli officials stated that the unmanned aerial vehicle was an advanced piece of technology.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) joint research and development to counter unmanned aerial vehicles will serve the national security interests of the United States and Israel;

(2) Israel faces urgent and emerging threats from unmanned aerial vehicles, and other unmanned vehicles, launched from Lebanon by Hezbollah, from Syria by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, or from others seeking to attack Israel;

(3) efforts to counter unmanned aerial vehicles should include the feasibility of utilizing directed energy and high powered microwave technologies, which can disable vehicles without kinetic destruction; and

(4) the United States and Israel should continue to work together to defend against all threats to the safety, security, and national interests of both countries.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to enter into a cooperative project agreement with Israel under the authority of section 27 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2767), to carry out research on, and development, testing, evaluation, and joint production (including follow-on support) of, defense articles and defense services, such as the use of directed energy or high powered microwave technology, to detect, track, and destroy unmanned aerial vehicles that threaten the United States or Israel.

(2) APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS.—The cooperative project agreement described in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide that any activities carried out pursuant to the agreement are subject to—

(i) the applicable requirements described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section

27(b)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2767(b)(2)); and

(ii) any other applicable requirements of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) with respect to the use, transfers, and security of such defense articles and defense services under that Act;

(B) establish a framework to negotiate the rights to intellectual property developed under the agreement; and

(C) include appropriate protections for sensitive technology.

(d) REPORT ON COOPERATION.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code), the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report describing the cooperation of the United States with Israel with respect to countering unmanned aerial systems that includes each of the following:

(A) An identification of specific capability gaps of the United States and Israel with respect to countering unmanned aerial systems.

(B) An identification of cooperative projects that would address those capability gaps and mutually benefit and strengthen the security of the United States and Israel.

(C) An assessment of the projected cost for research and development efforts for such cooperative projects, including an identification of those to be conducted in the United States, and the timeline for the completion of each such project.

(D) An assessment of the extent to which the capability gaps of the United States identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) are not likely to be addressed through the cooperative projects identified pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(E) An assessment of the projected costs for procurement and fielding of any capabilities developed jointly pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (c).

(2) LIMITATION.—No activities may be conducted pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (c) until the date that is 15 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits the report required under paragraph (1).

TITLE III—ENSURING ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE

SEC. 301. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to ensure that Israel maintains its ability to counter and defeat any credible conventional military, or emerging, threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors, while sustaining minimal damages and casualties, through the use of superior military means, possessed in sufficient quantity, including weapons, command, control, communication, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities that in their technical characteristics are superior in capability to those of such other individual or possible coalition states or non-state actors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days

in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, Israel faces growing threats, but particularly from Iran and its terrorist proxies such as Hezbollah.

This year, for the first time, we have seen direct military engagement between Iran and Israel. It is not just attacks coming over the border from Lebanon with Hezbollah, but direct military attacks. Iran launched a drone and fired rockets toward Israel. They did both from the perch that they have now in Syria. Those Iranian militia and troops are in Syria. Meanwhile, Iran's terrorist proxy, Hezbollah, continues to amass rockets and missiles. They have well over 100,000 in their inventory now. This bill will ensure that the United States continues to have Israel's back in the face of these growing threats.

With this measure, we are codifying the assistance levels in the latest 10-year U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding. What that aims to do is strengthen our already robust relationship, especially on defense matters. The bill also works to build on the United States' and Israel's successful history of cooperation on technology development. Think of the Iron Dome missile defense system, which shot down some of those Iranian rockets. Mr. ENGEL and I have seen those Iron Dome systems at work, deployed in Israel.

More recently, the U.S. and Israel have begun collaborating on anti-tunnel technology. Why?

Well, ELIOT and I can tell you that we had the opportunity—and this was a sad story—to go into one of those tunnels. We did not know where that tunnel ended up when we started. The other end of that tunnel was an elementary school in Israel. Obviously, the intent of the terrorists was to use that tunnel in order to go in and kidnap children and then force the IDF to fight block by block by block. Hamas dug those tunnels. Hezbollah digs tunnels, as well. This anti-tunnel technology will help the IDF find and destroy those tunnels that are used for smuggling and launching attacks on Israel.

This measure supports continued cooperation on space science and exploration, in line with the NASA Administrator's recent trip to Israel to discuss expanding U.S.-Israel space cooperation.

This bill also authorizes the United States and Israel to collaborate on humanitarian assistance projects around the world. It authorizes the President to transfer precision-guided munitions to Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). She is chairman emeritus of the full committee and the current chairman of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee. I thank her for her work on this bill. I also thank the gentleman from Florida, TED DEUTCH, the ranking member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee. Together, these two members authored the House companion to this Senate bill, which passed our committee unanimously, the latest in a long list of successful collaborations between our committee members.

In honor of her tremendous legacy as an advocate for Israel, we are naming this legislation the ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN United States-Israel Security Assistance Act of 2018.

In her almost three decades in the House, Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN has made steadfast support for Israel a hallmark of her congressional career. She was the first woman to chair the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress. The U.S.-Israel relationship is stronger for the work that she has done in Congress. She will be greatly missed.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning S. 2497, the "United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018," which was referred to your Committee on August 3, 2018.

S. 2497 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 2497, United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of

2018, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on S. 2497 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2018.
Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of S. 2497, United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on S. 2497 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure. We are taking up a bill from the Senate that I fully support, with a couple of small amendments.

One of these amendments is to rename the legislation after a Member of this House. I find myself experiencing a little bit of denial, because it reminds me that one of our most able and valued colleagues is about to wrap up her distinguished career. I can't imagine what it is going to be like without ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN around here. She came to Congress the year after I did, and we have been close friends ever since.

The gentlewoman from Florida has been a dear friend and an exceptional colleague, and there has been no fiercer champion of the U.S.-Israel relationship than ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. So it is entirely fitting that we amend this bill to name it in her honor, the ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act.

Let me also thank the chief Democratic sponsor of this legislation, Mr.

DEUTCH, also of Florida, who has worked tirelessly to shape this legislation and to reaffirm the unshakable bond between the United States and Israel.

This bill, like the House version passed by the Foreign Affairs Committee, fully authorizes the historic memorandum of understanding, or MOU, between the United States and Israel, which President Obama signed and which will go into effect next year.

This MOU provides for a 10-year agreement at \$3.3 billion per year and a \$500 million missile defense pledge, the largest single pledge of military assistance in our country's history. The MOU is a concrete example of something I often say; while prime ministers may come and go, Presidents come and go, members of Knesset come and go, and Members of Congress come and go, the U.S.-Israel relationship is here to stay.

Our relationship with Israel benefits both our countries. For both of us, it strengthens security and stability, and advances our shared values. This is the bedrock of our friendship. This bill moves us forward in new areas of cooperation.

For example, Mr. KILMER of Washington wrote a provision that will spur closer cooperation on space issues. Mr. CRIST of Florida wrote a section dealing with unmanned aerial vehicles that threaten the United States or Israel. Mr. SCHNEIDER's work will help ensure Israel's qualitative military edge. Mr. BOYLE included a measure that will increase Israel's access to precision-guided munitions.

I would like to point out a couple of issues, which I hope we can address through additional legislation. This bill was originally intended to include Mr. LANGEVIN's legislation to enhance U.S.-Israel cooperation on cybersecurity. This is an area where we should be working together. So I was disappointed that it was struck from this, and I hope that it soon crosses the finish line as a standalone bill.

Additionally, Mr. BOYLE's bill to allow Israel to purchase precision-guided weapons was included in the Senate bill. The Armed Services Committee majority objected. So this version waters down the authorization for these purchases to a sense of Congress, which is considerably weaker.

While I wish Armed Services Republicans would reconsider their objection, I won't stand in the way of moving this critical bill forward at this time. I am told that their concern is jurisdictional, and I hope they will remain sensitive to this issue the next time a defense authorization comes to the floor loaded down with provisions that fall in the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Let me finish by saying that this bill is very timely. The threats facing the United States and Israel are becoming more urgent and more complex. ISIS is growing in the Sinai; Israel's neighbors are shouldering new burdens from refu-

gees, causing further instability; and Iran's behavior in the region has, unfortunately become even more dangerous. The United States has been there by Israel's side throughout this dangerous time. And that is the way it should be.

Today, we put that into law. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I congratulate my good friend, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairman emeritus of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the author of H.R. 5141, the House predecessor of the legislation we have before us.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his kind words and the words of my good friend, Ranking Member ENGEL. This is truly an unexpected, humbling honor. I thank both of their teams for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor, and I thank all Members and supporters of Israel. There are so many of us in this Chamber. We have been through a lot together and the U.S.-Israel relationship is stronger because every single one of us works hard at it.

Mr. Speaker, a special thank you to my dear friend and Florida colleague, TED DEUTCH, the great ranking member of our subcommittee, with whom I have had the honor of working so closely on these issues over the past 6 years. He is the author of this newly named bill and the one with that idea.

As so many know, Mr. Speaker, it has been an absolute joy for me to have been a part of this distinguished body for almost 30 years, as the chairman points out, to advocate for my constituents and to serve on our esteemed House Committee on Foreign Affairs to promote American ideals like freedom, democracy, and human rights, and to help strengthen the bonds we have with allies around the world.

No relationship, Mr. Speaker, is more important than the one that we have with the democratic Jewish State of Israel. Israel is an indispensable, strategic partner, not just for its protection of U.S. interests, but because of our shared beliefs and our shared values.

I have had the incredible honor and privilege to travel to Israel, both with the chairman, the ranking member, and Mr. DEUTCH. We have seen firsthand that these shared values and these shared beliefs are seen every day in Israel, after centuries of suffering, and it has allowed the Jewish people to beat all the odds and to develop a country that has become a thriving global leader.

It only gets more impressive when you consider the neighborhood where Israel is—one that has never been more dangerous and more threatening to them than it is today. The threats just keep getting tougher for Israel.

For all of these reasons, I am so proud to have authored, along with the ranking member, Mr. DEUTCH, this bill, because we have worked together on this and we advocated for the bill before us today.

The bill authorizes, as has been explained, additional security assistance for Israel at a minimum of \$3.3 billion, the level agreed to in the memorandum of understanding, for the next 10 years.

With this bill, Mr. Speaker, we both have the comfort of knowing that our support for Israel will be ironclad, but it also provides us with the flexibility to modify that support should the threats to Israel increase. If additional support is needed, it would be given.

From drones and emerging threats to cybersecurity to space to development cooperation in other countries, this bill also includes a host of other provisions to expand our collaboration in other areas. Collaboration is an important word because, as the chair and ranking member have pointed out, this bill has been a positive, collaborative effort by many Members in a bipartisan manner.

The U.S.-Israel partnership has never been stronger than it is today. It is my sincere honor to have played a very small part in that. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, in spite of its name.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the lead Democratic author on the House version of the bill. He is also a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the ranking member of the Middle East Subcommittee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise in support of the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

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I am proud to have worked on this critical security bill with my colleague and friend, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

The U.S.-Israel relationship has been and must continue to be a bipartisan priority regardless of the party in power at either end of Pennsylvania Avenue. With today's vote, we have the chance to reinforce that point.

The threats against Israel remain numerous and complex. Iran is seeking to secure a permanent foothold in neighboring Syria. Hezbollah continues to stockpile an estimated 150,000 missiles near Israel's border, and a humanitarian crisis looms in Gaza, threatening stability in Israel.

Israel must be prepared to defend itself from threats coming from every direction, from everything from the most rudimentary of weapons—as we have seen with the “arson kites” from Hamas, the “terror kites”—to advanced Iranian-made missiles.

The 2016 memorandum of understanding between our countries committed unprecedented levels of security. That assistance is \$38 billion over

10 years, and this bill will enshrine that figure into law. Notably, nearly all of this American taxpayer money will come back to the United States and support American jobs.

This bill will codify this memorandum and ensure that Israel has the capability to defend itself from any and all threats. That means strengthening Israel's qualitative military edge, authorizing cooperation on UAV technology, and expanding cooperation in new areas, such as space, and through a new effort to work together to provide humanitarian assistance around the globe.

When we consider legislation like this, we must remember that threats against Israel are also a threat to our security interests in the region. Enhancing Israel's security is a step towards strengthening our own national security, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill and strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Finally, I would like to thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her service to our Nation and particularly for her ardent and unwavering support for our ally, Israel, throughout her nearly three decades in Congress. Her long and decorated career in this Chamber, as historic as it was effective, will live on through her incredible achievements in our Nation's robust foreign policy.

Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN has been the leading voice on a foreign policy that stands up to rogue regimes wherever they are and always, always values human rights. Without a doubt, her contributions to strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship will take their place in this body's history. There has been no greater champion than ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman's contributions to the strengthening of the U.S.-Israel relationship will take their place in this body's history because there has been no greater champion than ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. It has been an honor to work with her on this most recent effort to broaden and enhance the U.S.-Israel relationship, so it is only fitting that this piece of legislation should bear her name.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend and colleague. This bill is but a small part of the legacy that she leaves behind in this great Chamber. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with her. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the chairman, Mr. ROYCE. I am grateful for their leadership, as I am for Mr. ENGEL and the great job he does as ranking member.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Sub-

committee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and Mr. DEUTCH for all of their very excellent comments towards our good friend and colleague ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, a chairwoman in earnest who has been one of the greatest friends Israel has ever known in this Chamber.

The gentlewoman has been tenacious in her fight against terrorism, particularly as it relates to Iran, and against very considerable odds has been able to promote legislation that has made a huge difference in protecting the people of Israel from the ever-present threats, the existential threats that they face in the region. I thank Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. It is so fitting that this bill is named after her.

This bill authorizes, as we all know, enhanced military cooperation between our countries; it further enshrines Israel's qualitative military edge; it authorizes foreign military financing at an annual level of no less than \$3.3 billion, agreed to in the bilateral MOU negotiated under the Obama administration, but, crucially, the bill specifies that the assistance should be not less than \$3.3 billion. It is a statement that it is a floor and not a ceiling, so, over the next 10 years, at least that much and hopefully more because we know the needs are overwhelming.

The bill's other provisions: it facilitates the transfer of advanced, precision-guided missiles for Israel's use and lays the groundwork for bilateral cooperation that will assist Israel in confronting an evolving landscape of threats, including from unmanned UAVs.

The many facets of cooperation supported by this bill, from international development to space exploration, are not just for Israel's benefit. They also contribute to our national security. The U.S. is safer when Israel is stronger. This bill translates that fundamental principle into practical initiatives for fruitful collaboration and mutual benefit.

It is fitting, again, that this act will be named after a great American and a great friend of Israel, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL), a very valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a cosponsor of this bill.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to work with Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. And Mr. POE, it has been a great pleasure and honor to work with you in a bipartisan manner on our Foreign Affairs Committee.

I am very proudly standing here, of course, in support of this United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act, which recognizes Israel's right to defend itself and writes into law the continued cooperation between our two countries.

Defending Israel is in our national security interest, as is ensuring our great friend and ally is safe. It is more important than ever, as mentioned by my colleagues here today.

When you look at the region, there is reason to be worried: Hamas in Gaza, rebuilding its rocket arsenal and calling for Israel's destruction; Iran now threatening to dramatically increase its enrichment of uranium while constructing military bases in Syria; ISIS wreaking havoc in Sinai; and Hezbollah pointing 150,000 missiles at Israel.

So we must continue strengthening Israel's defenses, and this important bill codifies the memorandum of understanding with Israel signed by the Obama administration, the largest U.S. military assistance package ever.

The measure also expands U.S.-Israel cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including authorizing USAID to partner with Israel to aid low-income countries; by leveraging Israeli innovations in the water, food, security, energy, and global health sectors.

In an increasingly polarized Washington, Israel can never be a partisan issue. That is why I am so glad this is not a partisan issue. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield for such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

(Mr. HASTINGS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding to me in support of this measure that I think is most deserving for my dear friend from Florida.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me again applaud the chief sponsors of this legislation, Representatives ROS-LEHTINEN and DEUTCH, along with their Senate counterparts, for their tremendous work.

Let me also, again, as I have many times, thank our chairman. We have worked very closely together on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and this is proof of that kind of collaboration where we have both sides of the aisle doing things that are good for the United States of America.

This legislation and the MOU that it puts into law represents the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel and the shared interests and values that have been the hallmark of this relationship.

As Chairman ROYCE mentioned before, he and I have been there together many times. We have seen those terror tunnels. We have seen all kinds of things. The people of Israel need the United States, and we need the people of Israel.

The United States has stood up for democracy through all these glorious years of our being a republic, and we

cannot stop now. That is why legislation such as this bipartisan legislation is so important for us to pass.

This, in law, represents the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel and the shared interests and values that have been the hallmark of this relationship.

The Middle East is a very dangerous neighborhood. We here in the United States have the benefit of stepping back a bit, but we are not on the front line day in and day out the way the beleaguered people of Israel are with one country after another vowing to try to destroy it.

This Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, stands together and says that the United States stands with the people of Israel, and that makes me very proud of this Congress, proud of our Foreign Affairs Committee, proud of our chairman, and proud of all the people who have spoken, particularly ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who deserves all the accolades you can think of. Whatever I said wouldn't be dramatic enough to explain the force that she has been for the past 30 years on the Foreign Affairs Committee doing good things, particularly with the State of Israel.

It is going to be difficult to not see her here, but I know she will be doing everything that she can continue to do to enhance the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The democratic Jewish State of Israel is a friend and a major strategic partner of the United States. Israel is a beacon, as Ileana shared with us, of freedom, of democracy, of stability in the otherwise troubled Middle East. In short, it is the very opposite of the brutal and corrupt Iranian regime.

Iran has never made its threats to Israel a secret, and that is what they mean when the Ayatollah says: "Death to Israel; death to America."

After years of moving the pieces into place, including by showering its proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, with money and with rockets and with missiles and attempting to exploit the conflict in Syria to build a military presence and support base there on the border, it is slowly but surely preparing to make good on this threat. With this bill, we can ensure that Israel has the tools to defend it self and defend our shared interests in the face of that mounting threat.

I do thank our ranking member, ELIOT ENGEL, and I do thank TED DEUTCH for all of the bipartisan cooperation that has allowed us to move so many measures through the committee, through the Senate, and into law.

I also want, in closing, to thank and to note that I was the beneficiary of the good work of my predecessor in this position, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, when I took over the committee 6

years ago, and for that I am also very thankful.

I am thankful for the contributions that all of these individuals have made to the betterment of our defense, the security of the United States, the security of our allies. I am proud of the fact that we have done it in a bipartisan way.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the House amendment to S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

This bill would enshrine in law the 2016 U.S. Memorandum of Understanding that the Obama Administration reached with Israel.

This landmark agreement provides for historic levels of security cooperation with and assistance to Israel. Enacting this legislation would send an unmistakable message to Israel's enemies that the American commitment to Israel's security is ironclad.

Israel continually faces threats from all sides, and we have the responsibility to be sure that Israelis have everything they need in order to defend her citizens.

Whether it's missiles, tunnels, arson kites, or potential border breaches from Hamas in Gaza, rockets from Hezbollah in Lebanon, drones from Iranian forces in Syria, or whatever other lethal attempt may be devised, Israel must be ready to combat whatever comes her way.

Mr. Speaker, Israel's security is nonnegotiable. With enemies committed to the country's destruction throughout the entirety of its 70-year existence, Israel's qualitative military edge is absolutely necessary, and I am pleased that this bill ensures that this edge will be maintained.

Even amidst persistent security threats, Israel has been a remarkable leader in technological and humanitarian endeavors. This legislation, by enhancing U.S.-Israeli cooperation in space exploration and international development, will strengthen both of our countries and many other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that the U.S.-Israel relationship remains strong far into the future, I can think of no more fitting namesake for this bill than my friend and colleague, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Israel has a true friend and supporter in Ileana, and as she departs at the end of this Congress, we will all be well served to follow her example of working across the aisle to ensure that American support for Israel remains unbreakable.

To that end, I proudly urge the passage of the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House Amendment to S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act. As Israel faces growing threats from Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas, this bill reaffirms the United States' strong belief that Israel has the right to defend herself and ensures that Israel has the means to do so. Passage of this bill will send a powerful message to Israel's adversaries: the United States will continue to stand with Israel. I will note that this bill is appropriately named for my good friend, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-

LEHTINEN, who as we all know is departing at the end of this Congress. Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN has been a strong supporter of Israel, a champion of democracy across the world, and one of this chamber's true believers in the ideal of bipartisan foreign policy. So I thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership, and I urge all my colleagues to support this important measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2497, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1911) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1911

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 "Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that since the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

SEC. 3. MONITORING AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 59 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2731) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting before the period at the end the following: "who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate"; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary."; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, but striking "APPOINTMENT" and inserting "NOMINATION";

(ii) by striking the first sentence;

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking "If the Secretary determines that such is appropriate, the Secretary may appoint" and inserting "If the President determines that such is appropriate, the President may nominate"; and

(iv) in the third sentence, by striking "The Secretary may allow such officer or employee to retain the position (and the responsibilities associated with such position) held