

detailed health information and genomic data volunteered by over 600,000 veterans.

But the VA simply doesn't have the computing power or expertise to analyze all of this complex data. In order to learn from their data and provide better healthcare for veterans, the VA needs access to more advanced computing capabilities, expertise, and infrastructure than is currently available at the agency.

As a world leader in high-performance computing, the DOE is an ideal partner to help the VA meet this need. In its national laboratory system, DOE hosts 5 of the world's top 10 fastest supercomputers, including the fastest supercomputer in the world, Summit, at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The DOE also funds research and computational sciences and data analytics, which can be used to solve a range of complex big data challenges in the physical sciences. The interagency partnership between DOE and the VA authorized by my bill is necessary to analyze this data and ultimately provide better care for our Nation's veterans.

DOE has the capability to securely store, using supercomputers at the national labs, and analyze the VA's health data to look for patterns. Learning from these patterns can help us improve the medical treatments for heart disease, traumatic brain injury, and cancer.

I think we can all agree that we should be taking any steps possible to improve the medical care of our men and women who have answered the call to serve. Not only does this bill take that step, but it has benefit in giving our scientists the ability to analyze complex data that will help America remain the world's leader in advanced computing.

The bill also requires the DOE to establish data storage facilities to securely transmit and store data that the VA provides. This will make certain that privacy and security are maintained for veterans who volunteer for the programs.

I am grateful that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have been able to come together and move this bill forward. Providing better care for our veterans is a place where we can find common ground, especially since America's veterans fought to keep us all safe, regardless of our political party.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow Committee on Science, Space, and Technology members who cosponsored this legislation and the many veterans serving in the House who supported my bill. I also want to thank Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, who has been a strong advocate of this partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" in favor of improving healthcare for veterans.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LUCAS for yielding me the time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 617, the Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act, introduced by my colleague, Congressman RALPH NORMAN from South Carolina.

I think this bill is very simple, but very essential at the same time. It essentially authorizes collaboration between the Department of Energy and the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a program that facilitates computing capabilities to process data on health issues affecting all of our veterans. The bill will subsequently support the Veterans Administration with identifying potential health risks and challenges that our communities have.

I think it is important because combining those processing capabilities with health information compiled by the VA will help us to better understand the healthcare issues related to our veterans and the general population as well and ensures that both agencies will remain at the forefront of scientific and medical research.

I am a proud cosponsor of this bill on behalf of our veterans. Actually, we have more than 90,000 veterans registered in Puerto Rico, and we are very grateful to Congressman RALPH NORMAN for introducing this bill.

I want to also thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and Ranking Member LUCAS for their great work together on behalf of the scientific community and our veterans.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close, since I have no additional speakers.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, H.R. 617 harnesses the power of DOE's supercomputers to revolutionize the way we care for America's veterans.

I want to thank Representative NORMAN for his leadership on this bill.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by simply thanking all of the members of the full committee, as well as the staff, and to urge passage of this legislation, H.R. 617.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 617, 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.

□ 1530

# COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 23, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 23, 2019, at 11:34 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1199.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

## OPPOSING GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT TARGETING ISRAEL

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 246) opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

### H. RES. 246

Whereas the democratic, Jewish State of Israel is a key ally and strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas since Israel's founding in 1948, Congress has repeatedly expressed our Nation's unwavering commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state;

Whereas it is a hallmark of American democracy for citizens to petition the United States Government in favor of or against United States foreign policy;

Whereas the United States Constitution protects the rights of United States citizens to articulate political views, including with respect to the policies of the United States or foreign governments;

Whereas American policy has long sought to bring peace to the Middle East and recognized that both the Israeli and Palestinian people should be able to live in safe and sovereign states, free from fear and violence, with mutual recognition;

Whereas support for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians has long-standing bipartisan support in Congress;

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should come through direct negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, with the support of countries in the region and around the world;

Whereas cooperation between Israel and the United States is of great importance, especially in the context of rising anti-Semitism, authoritarianism and security problems in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa;

Whereas the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel is a campaign that does not favor a two-state solution and that seeks to

exclude the State of Israel and the Israeli people from the economic, cultural, and academic life of the rest of the world;

Whereas the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement is one of several recent political movements that undermines the possibility for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by demanding concessions of one party alone and encouraging the Palestinians to reject negotiations in favor of international pressure;

Whereas the founder of the Global BDS Movement, Omar Barghouti, has denied the right of the Jewish people in their homeland, saying, "We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.";

Whereas the Global BDS Movement targets not only the Israeli government but also Israeli academic, cultural, and civil society institutions, as well as individual Israeli citizens of all political persuasions, religions, and ethnicities, and in some cases even Jews of other nationalities who support Israel;

Whereas the Global BDS Movement does not recognize, and many of its supporters explicitly deny, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination;

Whereas university-based Global BDS efforts violate the core goals of the university and global cultural development, which thrive on free and open exchange and debate, and in some cases, leads to the intimidation and harassment of Jewish students and others who support Israel;

Whereas the Global BDS Movement promotes principles of collective guilt, mass punishment, and group isolation, which are destructive of prospects for progress towards peace and a two-state solution;

Whereas boycotts and similar tools aimed at promoting racial justice and social change have been used effectively in the United States, South Africa, and other parts of the world; and

Whereas in contrast to protest movements that have sought racial justice and social change, the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel is not about promoting coexistence, civil rights, and political reconciliation but about questioning and undermining the very legitimacy of the country and its people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) opposes the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel, including efforts to target United States companies that are engaged in commercial activities that are legal under United States law, and all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel;

(2) urges Israelis and Palestinians to return to direct negotiations as the only way to achieve an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

(3) affirms the Constitutional right of United States citizens to free speech, including the right to protest or criticize the policies of the United States or foreign governments;

(4) supports the full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296; 128 Stat. 4075) and new efforts to enhance government-wide, coordinated United States-Israel scientific and technological cooperation in civilian areas, such as with respect to energy, water, agriculture, alternative fuel technology, civilian space technology, and security, in order to counter the effects of actions to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel; and

(5) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states—a demo-

cratic Jewish State of Israel, and a viable, democratic Palestinian state—living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 246.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking the authors of this resolution, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mrs. WAGNER. I am grateful for their bipartisan leadership.

Mr. Speaker, there are 339 cosponsors of this resolution. Let me say that again: There are 339 cosponsors for this measure opposing the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement that undermines the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

Support for Israel in Congress is an issue that has been like catnip for our friends in the press that cover our work. Frankly, this issue has been politicized in a way that I find ugly and is ultimately harmful to the U.S.-Israel relationship. It is time that leaders stop playing politics with our relations with the Jewish state.

When the fog clears, and the bullies on their pulpits end their tirades, what you see with this measure is a real bipartisan reflection on how this body regards our country's relationship with and support for Israel and our opposition to BDS. Almost 80 percent of House Members are cosponsors, and we are here debating it under suspension of the rules.

What this resolution says is simple. It says that support for BDS and support for a two-state solution just aren't compatible. Let me explain why, and I hope this explanation will also help to address some of the concerns about this measure.

Opposing BDS isn't about opposing any individual's right to protest or boycott. The right of any person to express views like that is enshrined in our Constitution. That sort of free expression is a pillar of American democracy, and this resolution says so. Let me read from it:

"Whereas it is a hallmark of American democracy for citizens to petition the United States Government in favor of or against United States foreign policy;

"Whereas the United States Constitution protects the rights of United States citizens to articulate political views, including with respect to the

policies of the United States or foreign governments."

That is in this resolution. It couldn't be any clearer, Mr. Speaker.

Throughout history, protests, boycotts, and movements like that have played key roles in driving important change. The resolution says that, too:

"Whereas boycotts and similar tools aimed at promoting racial justice and social change have been used effectively in the United States, South Africa, and other parts of the world."

But here is the thing about the global BDS movement: I don't believe it promotes racial justice or social change at all. It promotes a one-sided view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that seeks to marginalize Israel and that would deny the Jewish people the right of national self-determination, a right proclaimed by none other than the United Nations.

Many of us have been fighting for years to advance a future for the Israelis and Palestinians of two states for two peoples living side by side in peace and security. Building that future will require hard work and concessions.

BDS says that the onus is entirely on Israel. All concessions have to come from Israel, and the Palestinians should reject negotiations and just allow international pressure to build on Israel.

That is not how negotiations work, and it is no way to promote peace. That is why this movement is so counterproductive, in my view.

Do you want to criticize a government? That is your right. Do you want to stop buying products from a certain country? That is also your right.

But participating in an international commercial effort that undermines Israel's legitimacy and scuttles the chances of a two-state solution isn't the same as an individual exercising First Amendment rights.

I continue to believe that a two-state solution that guarantees self-determination for both Jews and Palestinians—not one or the other—is the best way to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I believe that the overwhelming majority of our colleagues in this body agree with me, and Congress has said so before in bipartisan resolutions.

Today, we have the opportunity to reiterate that point and to warn against something that would derail that solution.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, July 19, 2019.

Hon. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Science, Space and Technology, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN JOHNSON: I am writing to you concerning H.Res. 246, Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this resolution.

I acknowledge that provisions of the resolution fall within jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.Res. 246 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the resolution does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the measure that fall within your jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, July 19, 2019.

CHAIRMAN ELIOT ENGEL,  
*Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I am writing to you concerning H.Res. 246, "Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel." This resolution was sequentially referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology ("Science Committee") on March 21, 2019.

The Science Committee will forgo action on H.Res. 246 in order to expedite floor consideration. This is, however, not a waiver of future jurisdictional claims by the Science Committee over this subject matter. Additionally, thank you for agreeing to include our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,  
*Chairwoman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, July 19, 2019.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.Res. 246, Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this resolution.

I acknowledge that provisions of the resolution fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.Res. 246 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the resolution does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the measure that fall within your jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, July 19, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.Res. 246, Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel, that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the resolution for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.Res. 246, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
Washington, DC, July 19, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,  
*Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS: I am writing to you concerning H.Res. 246, Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this resolution.

I acknowledge that provisions of the resolution fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.Res. 246 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the resolution does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the measure that fall within your jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,  
*Chairman.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, July 22, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives,* Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.Res. 246, Opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions targeting Israel.

Because you have been working with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in H.Res. 246 that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo formal consideration of H.Res. 246 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action to forego formal consideration of

H.Res. 246 with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing formal consideration of H.Res. 246 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would request that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.Res. 246.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,  
*Chairwoman.*

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 246. This is a bipartisan resolution I introduced with BRAD SCHNEIDER, JERRY NADLER, and ANN WAGNER to oppose BDS and efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel, which is now up to 350 cosponsors.

We must combat the BDS movement targeting our great ally in the Middle East. The BDS movement seeks to harm Israel today, tomorrow, and well into the future.

It is an American value to be able to express legitimate, reasonable criticism of any government in the world, including our own. The BDS movement, though, is different, and we must reject the blatant anti-Semitism injected throughout BDS and the delegitimizing of Israel.

We must educate and all be aware of the toxic, anti-Semitic words of the founder of BDS and how we have so many Jewish students on college campuses right here in the United States from coast to coast targeted with blatant anti-Semitism in the name of BDS.

Congress needs to make a very strong, bipartisan statement against BDS, and this resolution does just that. In addition, we should also enact legislation with teeth.

In February, the Senate passed anti-BDS legislation, S. 1, with a strong, bipartisan vote. This bill allows State and local governments to adopt laws to divest public funds from entities that boycott Israel. Lead Republican MCCAUL already has a bill in the House, H.R. 336, that is identical to S. 1 and contains the anti-BDS legislation.

I strongly encourage the Speaker to bring this bill to the floor as well so that not only are we making a strong statement, but we are also doing something about it.

I am grateful to House leadership for bringing H. Res. 246 to the floor today, for Chairman ENGEL's work and his team's work in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and to lead Republican MCCAUL and his team.

Mr. Speaker, this is a big deal. I am honored to work with you on this important effort, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), who is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 246. This resolution, modeled on legislation passed

by the New York City Council, is fully consistent with the First Amendment and affirms the rights of those who support the global BDS movement to voice their opinions. Importantly, it also puts Congress on RECORD rejecting this misguided and deceptive movement that is neither progressive in its conduct nor pro-peace in its ultimate mission.

BDS proponents advocate for a complete boycott of Israeli businesses, individuals, and institutions—including academic institutions, which are supposed to be bastions of intellectual freedom—hypocritically seeking to deny all Israeli citizens the same rights and freedoms that BDS supporters claim that they themselves are denied.

Not only does the movement, at times, invoke anti-Semitic tropes and seemingly promote violence, it unfairly blames one party in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and does nothing to promote direct negotiations to achieve a two-state solution, which is the only path to a fair peace.

In fact, the founder of the movement, when asked whether BDS would end when Palestinians were able to establish their own state, flatly says “no.” That tells you everything you need to know, Mr. Speaker.

Instead of promoting peace and a two-state solution, the mission of BDS is clear: to delegitimize Israel, regardless of its policies or conduct, and to deny the Jewish people, and only the Jewish people, the right of national self-determination.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is a senior member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

I applaud Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. ZELDIN for sponsoring this important resolution. I especially thank Chairman ELIOT ENGEL for his very eloquent comments a moment ago.

Not wishing to be redundant, I will just say this because I associate myself with their strong and persuasive remarks: The great former Soviet refugee and religious prisoner Natan Sharansky, who testified at two of about a dozen hearings that I have chaired on combating anti-Semitism, proposed what he called a simple test to help us distinguish legitimate criticism of Israel from anti-Semitism. Sharansky called it the three Ds, demonization, double standard, and delegitimization.

When the three Ds are advanced, we know that anti-Semitism is the issue. The BDS movement demonizes Israel and, by extension, Jews, who are always cast in the role of oppressors, who are always in the wrong. In so doing, it applies a double standard, whereby Israel is always wrong and the oppressed Palestinians are always in the

right, regardless of whether groups such as Hamas are engaging in terrorist acts upon Israeli citizens. The objective of this is to delegitimize the State of Israel, to deny its very right to exist.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud them on this bill, and I hope this vote is unanimous.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), who is the author of this resolution.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today in support of H. Res. 246, of which I am the sponsor.

This resolution does four things.

First, it affirms the vital relationship between the United States and Israel, our most important ally in a complicated region of the world.

Second, it reiterates our unbreakable commitment to Israel's security.

Third, it restates Congress' strong, bipartisan support for a negotiated two-state solution.

Lastly, it makes clear that Congress opposes the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, or BDS, movement that seeks to delegitimize Israel; opposes a two-state solution; and pushes the cause of peace for both Israelis and Palestinians further out of reach.

It has been our country's long-held policy that the best path to ensuring Israel's long-term security as a democratic and Jewish state, and realizing the Palestinian people's aspirations for a state of their own, is through a negotiated two-state solution.

The global BDS movement, on the other hand, denies the Jewish people's connection to the land of Israel; refuses to accept the basic idea of a Jewish state; and seeks to delegitimize Israel in international forums, on college campuses, and in global commerce.

But don't take my word for it. The founder of the global BDS movement, Omar Barghouti, has said as much: “We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sellout Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.”

When global BDS movement supporters chant, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” these are not words of peace. This is a call for the destruction of the entire State of Israel and the elimination of the Jews from the land—all the land, not just Gaza and the West Bank.

That is why it is so important that we take a stand today and vote to condemn the global BDS movement.

Let me also be clear: This resolution explicitly recognizes that boycotts have a long tradition in this country, including the civil rights movement, efforts to end apartheid in South Africa, and other matters. However, not all boycotts seek just ends.

Such is the case of the BDS movement against Israel and its fundamental aims: the delegitimization of Israel and the destruction of the Jewish state.

I am proud that this resolution has gained 350 cosponsors, including more than three-quarters of the Members of both parties. I would like to thank the leadership of my Democratic cosponsor Congressman JERRY NADLER as well as the efforts of our Republican cosponsors, Representatives LEE ZELDIN and ANN WAGNER.

This strong, bipartisan support sends a clear, united message that this Congress not only supports the Jewish, democratic State of Israel and two states as the path to peace for both Israelis and Palestinians but that at the same time we condemn efforts to delegitimize and block the path to peace.

□ 1545

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the esteemed Republican whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate both of my colleagues from New York, the distinguished gentlemen, Mr. ZELDIN and Mr. ENGEL, for their strong leadership in standing up against this BDS movement.

I think we all know what it is designed to do. It is designed to delegitimize Israel as a Jewish state and to undermine their economy, which ultimately goes to the heart of trying to bring down Israel by people who have been against a Jewish state and expressed anti-Semitism for decades. We all need to stand up against that, and so this resolution is incredibly important.

As my other colleague just mentioned, our nations had a rich history of using boycotts to promote freedom. There are other boycotts that have been displayed to undermine freedom, and that is really where the BDS movement is in a very different category. I think we all need to make that distinction.

If a boycott is being used to advance freedom, that is one we should support; but if a boycott is being used to undermine the very freedoms that exist in the only real elected democracy in the Middle East, we all need to rise up against that as people who respect that great tradition, that great love between the United States and Israel, an unbreakable bond, one that brings Republicans and Democrats together. We need to continue that tradition.

But I would also add, Mr. Speaker, that, as we are talking about why we need to oppose the BDS movement with this resolution, words are hollow if we don't follow it up with action. So, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, hopefully, we get an overwhelming, maybe unanimous, vote on this resolution.

It is long past time that the Democratic leadership of this House bring up H.R. 336 by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), the bill that actually puts teeth in the law to stand up against the BDS movement all around the world.

Here, even, sometimes in Congress or in other states, but in other countries

where they are trying to advance this movement, we need teeth—words and action. So these are words today. We need to follow it up with H.R. 336, real action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we stand strong together.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY).

Mrs. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the State of Israel. It is a homeland for the Jewish people and a sanctuary from anti-Semitism. Israel is a thriving democracy, and its citizens have made enormous contributions to our global society.

The U.S. has no better friend than Israel. And, yes, on occasion, our two governments will disagree on certain policies, as all sovereign nations do, but our strong alliance is rooted in shared values, shared security interest, and a deep historical connection.

I also believe the Palestinian people have legitimate aspirations, deserve a better future, and should have their own state. I support direct negotiations between the parties leading to two states living together in peace and security.

I support this bipartisan resolution because the BDS movement makes a just peace harder, not easier. It unfairly vilifies Israel, blaming it, and it alone, for this complex conflict.

American citizens have the right to boycott, and boycotts often promote positive change, but the BDS movement is misguided and harmful, and Congress should say so unequivocally.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, and a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 246 and to voice my relentless opposition to the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign that seeks to delegitimize the State of Israel and deny the Jewish people—and only the Jewish people—the right to self-determination.

This resolution reminds us that boycotts have been previously used as tools for social justice in this very country. But BDS doesn't seek social justice. It seeks a world in which the State of Israel does not exist.

It is not incompatible to support a strong, secure Jewish State of Israel and to support human rights, dignity, and prosperity for the Palestinian people. It is incompatible, however, to support BDS and claim to support two states for two people when BDS envisions Palestine from the river to the sea, one state, and the other, rejection of the Jewish State of Israel.

You simply will not, and cannot, achieve lasting peace and security for

both Israelis and Palestinians and work toward a two-state solution if you support a movement that seeks to delegitimize the very existence of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. WAGNER, for bringing this resolution to the floor today. I strongly support their efforts.

I strongly support this resolution condemning BDS, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, it is important to note, really, from coast to coast, we are hearing stories of students on college campuses, in the name of BDS, being targeted with blatant anti-Semitism.

For example, at New York University, after the student government passed a resolution supporting BDS, the Bronfman Center for Jewish Life was temporarily closed in response to threatening Twitter posts by a student who expressed “a desire for Zionists to die.”

A University of Michigan professor refused to write a letter of recommendation for a qualified student solely because she wanted to study abroad in Israel.

A Students for Justice in Palestine cofounder and University of California, Berkeley, professor spoke at a national conference and shared the anti-Semitism meme of an Orthodox Jewish person in his presentation.

At Warren Wilson College, an invited speaker stated: “Jews are doing the same thing to the Palestinians as the Nazis did to the Jews.”

A Yik Yak posting at the University of California read: “Gas them, burn them, and dismantle their power structure. Humanity cannot progress with the parasitic Jew.”

More globally, University of Durban in South Africa called for the expulsion of Jewish students who did not support the BDS movement at the university.

It is really important for people who may just be getting familiar with what BDS is to know that, right now, we have so many Jewish students who are being targeted with this blatant anti-Semitism, and that is why today's statement sends such a powerful message.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the House to pass this resolution which opposes efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel through the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement. This resolution reiterates that there is a viable pathway to peace: through direct negotiations to achieve two states for two people.

If implemented, the BDS movement would blacklist Israeli businesses, dev-

astate the Israeli economy, and create doubt about Israel's legitimacy among the next generation. That undermines any possibility of achieving a lasting peace.

The global rise of anti-Semitism is manifesting itself in many terrifying ways, and we must remain vigilant. This resolution is paramount in ensuring that BDS supporters cannot utilize this movement to promote an anti-Semitic agenda.

BDS does not seek and will not help achieve Israeli-Palestinian peace. In fact, it pushes the hope for a two-state solution even further away. BDS only gives fodder to Israel's enemies who seek to destroy her and isolate her from the rest of the world.

Direct, bilateral negotiations between the parties is the only option for a viable, long-lasting peace.

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

Mr. Speaker, some supporters of the BDS movement—in fact, the movement, in total, makes the argument that Israel is the bad guy on humanitarian issues, on human rights.

It is important to note, Israel has a long history of LGBT protections and women's rights enshrined in Israeli law that is in stark contrast to its Middle East neighbors.

Regardless of ethnicity or religion, there are broad freedoms in Israel, including the right to vote, freedom of speech, equal access to education and the workplace, and no special restrictions on the way women dress. By law, women are protected from discrimination.

In fact, Israel's declaration of independence grants all Israel's inhabitants equality of social and political rights, irrespective of religion, race, or gender. Even Palestinians in the autonomous regions have voting rights and receive social services.

Under Israeli jurisdiction, some 350,000 Palestinian residents in Jerusalem receive certain civilian welfare, health, and municipal services. In other parts of the Middle East, it is a monarchy with no voting rights whatsoever.

Hamas has repeatedly denied humanitarian aid offered by Israel. In May 2018, when there were clashes on the border, Gaza refused two truckloads of aid from Israel to relieve medical shortages.

There are so many falsehoods that have been perpetrated by supporters of the BDS movement, and that is, again, another reason why today's resolution is such a powerful statement.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), my very good friend.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the BDS campaign has been heralded by critics and enemies of

Israel as a penalty for what they claim is Israel's oppression of the Palestine people. Nothing could be further from the truth.

These critics and enemies of Israel are, in reality, simply adding the BDS campaign to their arsenal of weapons to try and isolate, weaken, delegitimize, and, ultimately, destroy the State of Israel, as they have for decades.

For over 70 years, Israelis have faced repeated terrorism, bombs detonated on public buses, in cafes, and at religious observances. This terrorism has been beaten back by a nation simply trying to defend itself and persevere under withering attacks.

So now Israel's enemies have adopted a new strategy. BDS is an anti-Semitic movement, plain and simple.

The founder of BDS, Omar Barghouti, said it very clearly: "... we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian ... will ever accept a Jewish state."

The goals of BDS are clear. Just read their words.

Israel shall not and cannot yield. And we in the United States must stand with our ally that shares our values and has also worked with us.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong bipartisan support of this bill.

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

Mr. SUOZZI just pointed out one quote. Earlier, we heard another quote from the BDS founder. I will share one more. He also stated—and this is the founder of the BDS movement: "Many of the methods of collective and individual 'punishment' meted out to Palestinian civilians at the hands of young, racist, often sadistic and ever impervious Israeli soldiers ... are reminiscent of the common Nazi practices against the Jews."

The list goes on and on. As people out there are listening to this debate, becoming familiar with what the BDS movement is, just understand and take heed of the words from the BDS movement founder, Omar Barghouti.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bipartisan solution opposing the boycott of Israel and supporting a two-state solution.

I want to thank Chairman ENGEL for his excellent leadership on this important issue and Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for bringing this resolution to the floor.

With this bill and 349 cosponsors, it is very clear that Members of both parties support our vital ally, Israel, the leading democracy in the Middle East, because our countries share common interests and fundamental values, and Israel's security is key to America's security—to fighting Hezbollah, Hamas, PIJ, and global terror.

However, the Global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, BDS, Movement

seeks to delegitimize Israel and deny its right to exist as a Jewish state.

As Mr. SUOZZI, my colleague, just so aptly read, the founder of BDS, Omar Barghouti, said it very clearly: "Definitely, most definitely, we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state."

That exactly captures what we are fighting here today. There are few clearer examples of bias and double standards than the BDS movement. No other democratic country faces a global boycott.

But BDS is also fundamentally incompatible with a two-state solution, which I strongly support. BDS seeks to punish only Israel, and it rejects direct negotiations in favor of unilateral strategy. That is why it is so important that Congress goes on record opposing BDS and other harmful efforts to single out and delegitimize Israel.

Standing up for the U.S.-Israel relationship should not be a partisan issue. That is why the members of the Problem Solvers Caucus are proud to support this resolution.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

□ 1600

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. This resolution was introduced by our colleague Congressman BRAD SCHNEIDER, along with Congressman LEE ZELDIN, Chairman JERRY NADLER, and Congresswoman ANN WAGNER.

They have all done an excellent job. Nothing in this resolution would prevent anyone, in any way, from being able to engage in free speech. That is not what this is about, and we must not allow false attacks on Israel.

Mr. Speaker, today, we must continue to make sure that confronting biased anti-Semitism and supporting a two-state solution remain bipartisan priorities.

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

BDS supporters also claim that the BDS movement is nonviolent. The BDS movement does not distance itself from Hamas, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. BDS supporters, individually, are not distancing themselves from Hamas either. Instead, their criticism is focused on attacking Israel and, in many cases, the Jewish people specifically.

Two Fridays ago, Fathi Hammad, a senior Hamas official, called upon Palestinians worldwide: "Our brothers" in the diaspora "are still preparing. They are trying to prepare. They are warming up. A long time has passed with them warming up. All of you 7 million Palestinians abroad, enough of the warming up. You have Jews everywhere, and we must attack every Jew on the globe by way of slaughter and killing, if God permits. Enough of the warming up."

Where are all the supporters of BDS condemning these remarks? This is two Fridays ago, calling for the murder of every Jew in the world.

During a closed meeting in October 2017 between Hamas chief Sinwar and Gazan youth about reconciling with the Fatah movement, Sinwar stated that the time spent discussing recognition of Israel is over and that now Hamas will, instead, discuss when they will wipe out Israel.

Hamas uses women and children as human shields. They deny humanitarian aid to their own people. They incite violence. They have launched rockets into Israel, killing innocent civilians. They have declared that jihad is an obligation. That list goes on.

The Palestinian Authority, not only do they incite violence, but they financially reward terror, by policy. If you kill an Israeli or an American, you get called a martyr. You will have streets and football stadiums renamed after you. You and your family will get paid money.

There are existential threats all around Israel. To the north, with Hezbollah, another designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, they have built terror tunnels. They have amassed tens of thousands of rockets on the border between Lebanon and Israel.

Every year, Hamas mobilizes Palestinians in their Days of Rage to attack Israelis at the border, calling on people to throw rocks and fire missiles at Israel, which often result in actual violence, including death, targeting innocent civilians.

This past May, Hamas fired approximately 700 rockets into Israel, killing innocent civilians. Hamas has used incendiary kites and balloons, which have destroyed some 8,000 acres of Israeli farms, parks, and forests.

Earlier this year, Hamas carried out the Salift operation, sending out operatives to murder Israelis, including Rabbi Achiad Ettinger, a father of 12.

Where are all the BDS supporters in the United States, on college campuses, people who are involved in American politics, those who are at the United Nations, those who are abroad? Where is their voice right now? If everything that they say about their cause is legitimate and reasonable, that their concern is one that the entire world should be taking heed of and caution to, where is their voice condemning all the actual violence right now of Palestinian terrorists murdering innocent Israelis and, in some cases, Americans?

Taylor Force—the Taylor Force Act that this Chamber passed and was signed into law—he was a United States Military Academy graduate, an Army veteran, a United States Army veteran, who was killed. The PA pays those terrorists and their families to commit those terrorist acts.

We are here in this Chamber to call that out for exactly what it is, in bipartisan fashion.

I appreciate Chairman ENGEL's work at the Foreign Affairs Committee. I see



Chairman DEUTCH is still here, along with many other voices around this Capitol who believe strongly in this effort on the other side of the aisle. We need to work together to combat the BDS movement. This is an important next step.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) has 4½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the BDS movement, the supporters make territorial claims as it relates to Gaza, Judea and Samaria, the West Bank.

Let's clear up the record a little more on that. Judea and Samaria, often referred to as the West Bank, contain disputed territory, not occupied territory. Israel ended up with this territory after it was attacked, before there was even a Palestinian Authority. Time and again, the PA has rejected peace proposals because they refuse, publicly and privately, to accept a Jewish state in Israel. That is on them. In 2008, Israel offered to withdraw from 93 percent from Judea and Samaria.

As for Gaza, Hamas, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, they are in charge. There is no Israeli occupation there. This small strip of land is packed out with 1.7 million people living in sub-Third World country conditions because of Hamas. As was pointed out earlier, Hamas refuses humanitarian aid, uses women and children as human shields, calls jihad as an obligation, and murders innocent civilians.

One of the most important reasons we are here today is not only making a strong statement in opposition to the BDS movement but also to refute all the lies that are being told out there.

People will speak up to try to justify the hate that is filling the ranks of the BDS movement, and they will never tell you the other 100 percent of the story. This Chamber today comes together, Republicans and Democrats, both sides of the aisle, to make that powerful statement.

There is a list of victims—we don't have enough time to go through it—of Palestinian violence and terrorism in 2019. Mr. Speaker, 1,355 people have been killed by Palestinian violence and terrorism since September of 2000—1,355 people.

Never will the BDS supporters take any opportunity to set the record straight on any of that, but we will here.

I see that BRAD SCHNEIDER is with us as well, the main author of the bill. This is a bipartisan effort that I am very proud to be part of today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for speaking today, as well as Chris Smith and Minority Whip SCALISE. This is something that we are very passionate about.

We also believe that the strong statement that is going to be made here today with this vote is not the last step of this Chamber's speaking out. I really hope that we all can work together in a bipartisan fashion to figure out how to do something about it, to be able to pass legislation with teeth.

Today is nothing short of progress, and it is something for all of us to be proud of around our country and around the world because it should be an American value to stand strong, shoulder to shoulder with our great ally, our greatest ally in the Middle East in Israel. It is a beacon of hope, freedom, liberty, and opportunity.

Americans, in our day-to-day lives, don't even realize just how much we are using Israeli technology, American companies that have used Israeli technology. We probably have used it multiple times just today.

You can't boycott Israel and, at the same exact time, spend your entire day using Israeli technology. You can't boycott Israel and travel to Israel.

We are going to call out the hypocrisies that exist. Ultimately, as we flush this out, let's work together. This is about advocacy. It is also about education.

When I came to Congress in 2015, honestly, there were a lot of Members of Congress that, if you asked them, "Where do you stand on the BDS movement?" their answer would have been, "What is BDS?"

Now, in 2019, here we are, July 2019, coming together. We know what BDS is: Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement. We know it is filled with anti-Israel hate. We know it is about delegitimizing Israel. We know that it is filled with anti-Semitism, from the founder of BDS to those in the name of BDS on college campuses from coast to coast.

I plead with all of my colleagues, if we can all work together as we move past this great vote today, that we can next pass legislation that has teeth in it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, BRAD SCHNEIDER, JERRY NADLER, ANN WAGNER, the 350 cosponsors, and, hopefully, everyone today voting "yes." I thank lead Republican MICHAEL MCCAUL on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

This is a resolution for us all to be proud of. We should all vote "yes," tell all of our constituents about it, and redouble our efforts to do something about it right after that vote.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I am really heartened by the outpouring of support we have heard from both sides of the aisle involving the U.S.-Israel relation-

ship and involving the unfair BDS movement against Israel.

I thank all the people who have spoken in favor of this resolution—the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) and others who have spoken—because it shows that, when it comes to support for the U.S.-Israel relationship, there really is no difference between Democrats and Republicans.

Israel should not be a political football. We support the U.S.-Israel relationship, and we know that BDS is very destructive, very unfair, very anti-Jewish, anti-Semitic, and should have no place in the public spectrum.

I think that this Chamber is getting together. If we look at the numbers we bring to the floor today, they really speak for themselves. Almost 80 percent of the House of Representatives has cosponsored this resolution.

There are Members not just from different sides of the aisle but from across the entire political spectrum, from one end to the other, supporting this resolution, saying the BDS movement is unfair, that the BDS movement singles out Israel, that the BDS movement is really supported by people who want to see the destruction of the world's only Jewish state, and that is not something that we can stand idly by and watch happen.

I have never been prouder of this body—and I have been here for a while now—than I am tonight. I am proud of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Again, I think the reason why we have that kind of support is clear. Congress supports the U.S.-Israel relationship. We support a two-state solution. We support the rights enshrined in the First Amendment.

We know that the global BDS movement threatens the possibility of future peace between Israelis and Palestinians. It is that simple.

We know that the global BDS movement threatens what is fair. We know that the global BDS movement is really a fraud. It is a fraud. It is Israel-hating. It is Jew-hating.

We have had enough of that in the world. Frankly, they should be ashamed of themselves.

I would like to note that today's resolution is a very powerful rebuke of the global BDS movement, more powerful than any particular legislative proposal. What we are saying today, to those who want to see a peaceful end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, is that the global BDS movement has no place here.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to support this measure. I urge all Members to do likewise. Again, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I have never seen Congress as united as it is on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I support House Resolution 246, opposing the anti-Semitic Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions—or BDS—movement and all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel.

It is important that we clearly state our opposition to the BDS movement, as this non-binding resolution with 349 cosponsors before us does. However, it is even more important that we take strong legislative actions to defend Israel.

As hateful as this growing movement is, sadly, it is not new.

Over 40 years ago, the Arab League began its boycott of Israel. In response to this boycott, Congress passed a law that makes it illegal to participate in foreign boycotts of U.S. allies.

Today, the Global BDS movement seeks to pressure Israel by using Israel's participation in the global economy, in academic exchanges, and in cultural activities as leverage.

For example, the BDS movement tries to pressure recording artists from performing in Israel.

It tries to keep students from studying abroad in Israel. It tries to keep consumers from purchasing Israeli goods.

Not only is the BDS movement antithetical to the values of openness and exchange shared by the United States, Israel, and free democracies all over the world, it is antithetical to peace.

As threats to U.S. allies, including Israel, evolve over time, we must update our policies to effectively stand with our partners. In weakening Israel, the global BDS movement endangers the national security of the United States.

I introduced a real legislative solution in January—H.R. 336, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act. This bill has direct policy implications by allowing state and local governments to adopt laws to divest public funds from entities that boycott Israel.

Additionally, it would sanction the Assad regime and its backers for their malign activities, and strengthen our support for Israel and Jordan.

While I support today's resolution, I regret that we are not considering H.R. 336 instead. The Senate companion to H.R. 336, S.1, was the first bill the Senate considered this Congress, demonstrating how urgent it was.

It passed with robust bipartisan support.

But, neither S.1, nor my House companion H. R. 336, have received consideration in this body.

Standing up for Israel has never been a difficult decision for the United States Congress.

It wasn't difficult for Senator CHUCK SCHUMER when he voted in favor of S.1, and it wasn't difficult for over half of the Democrats and nearly all Republicans in the Senate when they too supported the bill.

Just as we passed the original anti-boycott act 40 years ago, we must update our laws to protect our interests.

When foreign entities foster boycotts against Israel in the United States, they are interfering in U.S. policy, and it is appropriate for our government to respond.

We take a first step today by publicly acknowledging BDS is dangerous and anti-Semitic; but tomorrow we must take real actions—and advance the real policies in my bill—to protect Israel and combat the BDS movement.

I want to thank Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. WAGNER, Mr. NADLER, Chairman ENGEL and the Foreign Affairs Committee Membership for their bipartisan work to counter this threat to our friend and ally Israel.

I sincerely hope all Members vote in favor of this resolution that shows our solidarity with our friend and ally Israel, and hope we can vote on my bill this week.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, peaceful dissent and the protesting of injustice are the right of all Americans guaranteed by the Constitution. It is called freedom of speech. H. Res. 246 renounces the peaceful promotion of human rights, self-determination, and justice on behalf of Palestinian people living under Israeli military occupation. At the same time, this resolution completely ignores the Netanyahu government's brutality, dehumanization, and subjugation of Palestinian people at the root of this peaceful movement.

The State of Israel is a sovereign nation, an ally of the United States, and a military power that occupies Palestinian lands for the benefit of Jewish settlers. H. Res. 246 originally claimed that the use of voluntary boycotts, divestment, and sanctions "undermines the possibility of a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." I am pleased that this language has been removed.

I am also very pleased that resolving clause 3 was added to affirm the Constitutional right of U.S. citizens to free speech, including "the right to protest or criticize the policies of the United States or a foreign government."

Israel cannot be delegitimized by any outside movement, it is a nation-state that is selfgoverned and makes its own laws, its own policies. Sadly, and I say sadly because I want peace and security for the Israeli people, it is the actions of the Netanyahu government that delegitimizes Israel's standing in the world community.

Today's Washington Post ran a headline: "Israeli demolition of Palestinian homes provokes outcry." Is this the action of a nation seeking peaceful negotiations? Is the annexation of Palestinian lands or the military detention and torture of Palestinian children an effort to seek a negotiated peace agreement?

Under Prime Minister Netanyahu, Israel is engaged in a systemic, violent, and repressive strategy to annex Palestinian lands and permanently displace the Palestinian population, not seek a negotiated peace or a two-state solution. Shamefully, the President of the United States and the U.S. ambassador to Israel are enabling this effort in a reversal of decades of bipartisan U.S. foreign policy.

Actions by Congress, like passing H. Res. 246, which ignore reality and effectively supports military occupation, violations of international humanitarian law, and the subjugation of the Palestinian population, does not strengthen Israel, but it does damage the standing of the U.S. House in the eyes of the world.

It is time for Congress to exercise real American leadership that is based on our values and the belief that Israel deserves peace and security, and at the same time the Palestinian people deserve justice, equality, and an end to Israeli repression and occupation. H. Res. 246 offers nothing but the perpetuation of the status quo, repression, and conflict.

I am voting to oppose H. Res. 246.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 246, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1615

## UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT AND REGIONAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1837) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize assistance for Israel, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1837

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act".

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

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

### TITLE I—ENHANCED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

Sec. 101. Coordinator of United States-Israel Research and Development.

Sec. 102. Cooperation on directed energy capabilities.

Sec. 103. Cooperation on cybersecurity.

Sec. 104. Report on potential benefits and impact to the United States of establishing a joint United States-Israel Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

Sec. 105. Cyber diplomacy officer.

Sec. 106. United States Agency for International Development Memorandum-Israel enhanced cooperation.

Sec. 107. Cooperative projects among the United States, Israel, and developing countries.

Sec. 108. Joint cooperative program related to innovation and high-tech for the Middle East region.

Sec. 109. Sense of Congress on Eastern Mediterranean energy cooperation.

Sec. 110. Cooperation on other matters.

### TITLE II—SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL

Sec. 201. Findings.

Sec. 202. Statement of policy.

Sec. 203. Contingency plans to provide Israel with necessary defense articles and services.

Sec. 204. Waiver for existing or imminent military threat to Israel.

Sec. 205. Security assistance for Israel.

Sec. 206. Joint assessment of quantity of precision guided munitions for use by Israel.

Sec. 207. Transfer of precision guided munitions to Israel.

Sec. 208. Sense of Congress on rapid acquisition and deployment procedures.