

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED FOREIGN MILITARY SALE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL OF CERTAIN DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES—Motion to Discharge

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, pursuant to section 36(b)(1), I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 138.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 138, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me begin by thanking Senator KELLY not only for his remarks and his work as a U.S. Senator but for his service to our country in the military, and I very much appreciate his support for these resolutions.

Mr. President, 60 percent of our people here in the United States live paycheck to paycheck. They are struggling to pay for groceries, for housing, for healthcare, and, increasingly, the ability to fill up their gas tanks in their cars in order to get to work.

We also have a \$37 trillion national debt. Bottom line: The American people—whether they are Democrats, Republicans, or Independents, conservatives, moderates, or progressives—want to make certain that their tax dollars are spent responsibly.

And in strong and growing numbers, they do not want us to continue spending billions of their taxpayer dollars in support of the illegal, horrific, and expansionist war policies of the Netanyahu Government in Israel.

Since October 7, 2023, the United States has provided over \$21 billion—\$21 billion—in military aid to Israel. And today, we are saying loudly and clearly: Enough is enough.

We all know that on October 7, 2023, Hamas, a terrorist organization, attacked Israel. They killed more than 1,200 innocent men, women, and children and took hundreds of hostages. I believe that there is no disagreement in this Chamber that like any other country on Earth, Israel had the absolute right to respond to that barbaric Hamas attack.

But Israel did not have the right to violate international law and wage an all-out war of unspeakable destruction against the entire Palestinian people in what experts have correctly concluded is a genocide.

Israel did not have the right out of a population of 2.2 million to kill more than 72,000 Palestinians in Gaza and wound over 170,000. That is more than 10 percent of the population.

If that happened here in America, that would be over 30 million Ameri-

cans dead or wounded. And in Gaza, a strong majority of the dead and wounded are women, children, and the elderly.

By the way, that number is likely an underestimate as to the tragedy as bodies are literally being pulled out of the rubble every single day.

Israel did not have the right to destroy virtually all of Gaza's infrastructure, including its water and sewer systems and its supply of electricity. They did not have the right to demolish every one of Gaza's 12 universities, along with hundreds of schools, dismantling their entire educational system. A vast majority of the children in Gaza today are not in school.

Israel did not have the right to indiscriminately bomb civilian neighborhoods and damage or destroy over 90 percent of the housing units in Gaza—over 90 percent damaged or destroyed—resulting in the vast majority of the population there now sleeping in tents. That is where they are today.

Israel did not have the right to bomb over 90 percent of the hospitals in Gaza—hospitals—and kill 1,700 healthcare workers.

And Israel did not have the right to impose a blockade which prevented food, water, and medicine from entering Gaza, resulting in thousands of Palestinians being diagnosed with malnutrition and hundreds actually starving to death.

But, today, we are not just talking about Gaza. In the West Bank, in direct violation of international law that protects Palestinian territory, Israeli soldiers and settlers, since 2023, have killed over a thousand Palestinians, including 233 children. During that period, they have demolished more than 6,000 Palestinian homes and established more than 200 new illegal settlements and outposts in Palestinian territory.

And let us be clear, because I think there is some confusion about this. These actions are not just the results of some extremist, out-of-control settlers who are just doing whatever they want. Those actions are consistent with Israeli Government policy.

Netanyahu's Security Cabinet has approved the most sweeping changes to the West Bank's legal status since 1967, removing nearly all constraints on settlement expansion. Netanyahu himself declared:

There will never be a Palestinian state.

And I say that to some people here who still say: Well, we are in favor of a two-state solution.

That is not Mr. Netanyahu's position. He said:

"There will never be a Palestinian state."

His Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, bragged that new settlement construction in the West Bank would "bury"—that is his word—"bury" the idea of a Palestinian state.

But it is not just Gaza and the West Bank. We now know that Netanyahu convinced President Trump to start an unprovoked and unconstitutional war on Iran.

For 40 years—for 40 years—Netanyahu had wanted the United States to participate with Israel in a war against Iran, and, finally, after 40 years of effort, he finally found in Trump a President willing to go along.

He couldn't get Democratic Presidents in the past and couldn't get Republicans in the past. In Trump, he finally found a President willing to go along.

This war, in violation of international law, has resulted already in the deaths of thousands of civilians, including hundreds of children in Iran and Lebanon, including 26 Israeli civilians who are now dead and 13 American soldiers who have lost their lives so far in this conflict.

All over the world, certainly including the United States, hundreds of millions of innocent people are suffering the economic consequences of this war, with higher prices and growing scarcity of basic goods.

I believe that in Vermont, now, the price of regular gas is about \$4 a gallon, and in parts of the country, it is even higher than that.

But for Netanyahu, Gaza was not enough. Attacking Iran was not enough. Netanyahu is now waging a full-blown war of expansion against Lebanon. That war in Lebanon has not only killed more than 2,000 people but has resulted in Israel occupying 14 percent of Lebanese territory.

Let me repeat that. The war in Lebanon has not only killed more than 2,000 people but has resulted in Israel occupying 14 percent of Lebanese territory.

The Israeli Defense Minister, Israel Katz, has announced that all Lebanese border villages will be demolished—will be demolished—his exact words, following "the model in Gaza"—demolish border villages.

Bezalel Smotrich, the Finance Minister, has warned that Dahieh, a suburb of South Beirut, will look like Khan Yunis, a city in Gaza that Israel reduced to rubble.

In other words, what they did in Gaza is now what they intend to do in parts of Lebanon. And these are not threats. They are promises.

For all of the reasons that I have given and more—and you are going to hear more from some of my colleagues, in a few moments—support for Israel in this country has plummeted. Today, according to a recent Pew poll, 80 percent of Democrats now have an unfavorable opinion of Israel, and 41 percent of Republicans share that view.

And the numbers in all parties, among young people, are even higher. Young people, whether they are young Democrats, progressives, or conservatives, do not want us to continue to fund the horrific war policies of Netanyahu.

A recent Quinnipiac poll also found that 60 percent—including three-quarters of Democrats, two-thirds of Independents, and 37 percent of Republicans—I say that to my Republican

colleagues: 37 percent of Republicans do not want the U.S. sending more military aid to Israel.

And that is why I am offering, today, two joint resolutions of disapproval, the only formal mechanism Congress has to block an arms sale.

The first resolution would block the sale of \$151 million in 1,000-pound bombs. The second would block \$295 million in bulldozers, the machines used to demolish homes in the West Bank and Gaza and make a Palestinian state physically impossible.

The time is long overdue for Members of the U.S. Senate to start listening to the American people and not to AIPAC. The time is now for us to end all U.S. military aid to the extremist Netanyahu government, and a “yes” vote is an important way forward.

Mr. President, with that, I yield to my colleague from Maryland, Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the two resolutions offered by my colleague Senator SANDERS that would bar the transfer of certain offensive weapons and equipment to the Netanyahu government.

Specifically, these resolutions would block the transfer of 12,000 1,000-pound bombs and 132 armored bulldozers, valued at more than \$446 million and funded entirely by American taxpayers.

We cannot continue to provide a blank check to the Netanyahu government as it continues to use U.S. weapons in violation of U.S. and international law.

As I have long said, Israel was justified in its war against Hamas after the horrific attack of October 7, 2023. But the Netanyahu government is not justified in imposing collective punishment on all the people of Gaza.

As Senator MERKLEY and I wrote in our report after traveling to the region in August 2025, “The Netanyahu Government is Implementing a Plan to Ethnically Cleanse Gaza of Palestinians. America is Complicit.”

And now, as Senator SANDERS indicated, Israeli leaders are saying out loud they plan to apply the same plans in southern Lebanon as they implemented in Gaza.

Senator SANDERS mentioned threatening what they did in Khan Yunis. As recently as March 31, Israeli Defense Minister Katz said:

All homes in Lebanese villages near the border will be destroyed—in accordance with the Rafah and Beit Hanoun model in Gaza.

Well, colleagues, I visited Gaza. I visited the Gaza crossing—the Rafah crossing—twice, along with my colleague Senator MERKLEY, first in January 2024, when Gaza’s population had quadrupled from prewar levels to more than 1 million people who had been displaced within Gaza, from northern Gaza.

And then we traveled to the Rafah crossing, in August 2025, after the IDF’s offensive against Rafah, one that

the Biden administration claimed that they tried to stop. And on that visit, Senator MERKLEY and I climbed a rooftop, and you could look into Rafah—obliterated, reduced to absolute rubble.

And as we were told by former IDF soldiers—eyewitnesses who had the courage to speak with us—Israel has systematically dismantled essential infrastructure and brought near-total destruction of civilian sites throughout Gaza, including through the use of these bulldozers and 1,000-pound bombs. And now the Israeli Minister of Defense says they are going to do the same thing in southern Lebanon.

And, indeed, since the war in Lebanon restarted, Israeli forces have killed over 2,000 people, including 250 people in 10 minutes, the day after the cease-fire was announced. Entire villages have been destroyed and over 1.1 million people displaced.

Now, let’s not forget how we got into this most recent round of destruction in the region. President Trump is fully responsible for getting America into this war, period.

But we know from Trump administration officials and public reporting how Prime Minister Netanyahu, for his own reasons, was pushing Trump to attack Iran. Indeed, he said it himself on April 11. Netanyahu boasted to the Israeli public that Israel was “first to act because we knew what was at stake. But if I had told you a year ago that our pilots, men and women, would fly in Iran, who would have believed it?” So said Prime Minister Netanyahu.

He went on to say:

If I had told you a year ago that the United States of America, the strongest power in the world, would fight by our side, shoulder to shoulder, wing to wing, for nearly 40 days against the common enemy, who would have believed it?

And then Prime Minister Netanyahu went on to say:

All this happened because we initiated, we acted, we attacked.

Now, those of us who have been around here a little while know that Prime Minister Netanyahu has been pushing for a war with Iran for a very long time. In fact, he recently publicly acknowledged that the current U.S.-Israeli war on Iran “allows us to do what I have been hoping to do for 40 years.”

That is what Prime Minister Netanyahu said.

I remember when Prime Minister Netanyahu actually spoke before a joint session of Congress, asking us not to support the JCPOA, which, of course, prevented Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

Of course, the current President then tore that up when he first came into office.

So Prime Minister Netanyahu had been trying to get previous Presidents to join him in attacking Iran, but no previous President was stupid enough or reckless enough to actually do it.

So here we are without facing any imminent threat, and President Trump

and Prime Minister Netanyahu started an illegal war against Iran.

It is a gross violation of international law. Indeed, on April 2, a group of over 100 international law experts, people who actually believe in international law, which included former U.S. and U.N. officials, published an open letter stating that “the initiation of the campaign was a clear violation of the United Nations Charter” and that the conduct of the United States and Israeli forces in the war “raise serious concerns about violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law, including potential war crimes.” That is on top of the illegality of initiating a war against Iran.

Look, earlier this afternoon, nearly all Democrats voted together to end Donald Trump’s illegal war against Iran. Many of us have vowed that we will not support 1 taxpayer dollar to continue this war that is making us less safe and less well-loved.

Well, that commitment and determination should apply to the Trump administration and to the Netanyahu administration. We need to rein in Trump in this illegal war, and we need to rein in the Netanyahu administration in this illegal war.

Now, colleagues, I want to focus for a moment on the portion of the Sanders resolution that bans the transfer of bulldozers to the IDF. These are the bulldozers that helped raze Rafah in Gaza to the ground.

For those who don’t remember, I ask them to recall the case of Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old American peace activist who was killed by an Israeli bulldozer while trying to block the razing of buildings in Rafah over 20 years ago. Rachel Corrie has never gotten any justice, and her family will tell you that today.

In fact, just since January of 2022, at least nine more American citizens have been killed by extremist Israeli settlers or security forces in the West Bank. Not one of them—not one—has gotten justice, just like Rachel Corrie—no accountability.

There is no piece of equipment that has helped Israel and the Netanyahu government destroy civilian infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza and now Lebanon more than the bulldozer.

Just look at the titles of some of the reporting coming from what is happening in southern Lebanon. The Guardian title: “‘Everything is gone.’ Israel destroys entire villages in Lebanon.”

And you can see it for yourself. I really encourage my colleagues just to look at the videos. Some of them have been shared by members of the Israeli military themselves. They showed controlled detonations and destruction of entire villages.

This isn't new. During the last war in Lebanon, Amnesty International documented how the Israeli military carried out extensive and deliberate destruction of civilian property across almost the entire Lebanese border with Israel, including 10,000 structures, primarily through the use of manually laid explosives and bulldozers.

In the West Bank, as we speak, we are seeing violent Israeli settlers kill Palestinian citizens with impunity. We are also seeing the use of these bulldozers to demolish Palestinian homes in the West Bank and other civilian infrastructures. Again, you can see it for yourselves in the videos.

This is all part of a slow-motion ethnic cleansing effort in the West Bank and de facto annexation of the West Bank. Indeed, the New York Times in September 2024 spoke about raids in the West Bank villages of Tulkarm and Jenin. The headline is this: "Israeli Bulldozers Flatten Mile After Mile in the West Bank." In total, since the Gaza war started, Israeli authorities have demolished at least 4,900 structures in the West Bank and displaced 9,000 Palestinians there.

As this has gone on, so has settler violence, often with the complicity of the IDF. In the West Bank, over 1,000 Palestinians, including 230 children, have been killed with virtual impunity since October of 2023—with impunity. The Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din said that between 2000 and September 2025—that is a 20-year period—more than 93 percent of police investigations into settler violence in the West Bank concluded without an indictment.

So what are we going to do about this? We need to stop providing the Netanyahu government with an absolute blank check. We need to demand accountability for American citizens who have been killed there.

So I urge my colleagues now to support this resolution. If we want to rein in a Trump administration that wants an illegal war against Iran, we should also rein in the Netanyahu administration. It is doing exactly the same thing with American taxpayer dollars.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Oregon Mr. MERKLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, on February 28, in coordination with and at the urging of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Trump attacked Iran without congressional authorization—that is, without the authority required under our Constitution. Almost immediately, Hezbollah, Iran's proxy, engaged in a battle with Israel. Now we have Israel invading southern Lebanon.

The Netanyahu government is exercising the same strategy they pursued in Gaza: Drop massive bombs, level entire towns, block routes for civilians to

leave, and block access for humanitarian relief.

And the United States? We are partners in this. We are complicit in this—not just because we partnered with Israel to ignite the war with Iran but because we sold the bombs and the bulldozers that Israel is using. We didn't stop supplying the Netanyahu government with weapons years ago even when it became clear that they were deliberately targeting homes, schools, and hospitals; when they were blocking deliveries of humanitarian aid, including water, food, and medicine; when the result was mass malnutrition, particularly among mothers and children and the elderly.

We must not continue to be complicit in these tragedies by selling these tools of destruction—the bombs and the bulldozers—to Israel.

The administration says: Let's sell them 12,000 more 1,000-pound bombs.

Picture 12,000 1,000-pound bombs dropping on neighborhoods—that is what we are enabling—or a vast number of bulldozers to destroy homes and buildings. We have seen it in the West Bank—homes and villages bulldozed, ancient olive groves bulldozed—and now we are seeing it in Lebanon, with the Netanyahu government bragging about doing the same thing to Lebanon they did to Gaza: Make it uninhabitable.

Let's be clear. Bulldozers are not defensive weapons.

Recent satellite images of southern Lebanon show the Netanyahu government flattening towns, destroying bridges, cutting off civilian movement, and cutting off humanitarian access in a replay of the destruction we saw in Gaza, not to mention the Netanyahu government has supported settlers in their expansion, massive expansion, of outposts and settlements on Palestinian land in the West Bank, in their mass increase in construction of homes and villages, and most disturbing of all, supporting the settlers in their violent attacks on Palestinian communities—all of this in the goal of creating a greater Israel by destroying any prospect of a Palestinian state.

Let's not forget, as my colleague from Maryland mentioned, it was a bulldozer operated by the Israeli Defense Forces that killed American citizen Rachel Corrie in Rafah in 2003—the first of 14 Americans citizens who have been killed by Israeli soldiers since then.

Approving this sale of the bombs and bulldozers deepens our responsibility for these tragedies and for the suffering.

Colleagues, when we became Senators, we swore an oath to take on the responsibilities designated to Congress in the Constitution, including the question of war.

As Madison summarized: The Constitution supposes what the history of all governments demonstrates, that the executive is the branch of power most interested in war and most prone

to it. Thus, the Constitution has accordingly, with studied care, vested the question of war in the legislature.

That is the Constitution we swore an oath to, and it is the Constitution that President Trump violated by launching a war without congressional authorization.

In 1973, during the Vietnam war, Congress approved the War Powers Act to, in their words, "fulfill the intent of the Framers of the Constitution" and rein in the President from waging wars without congressional approval.

The War Powers Act does allow the President to respond to an imminent threat that is "a national emergency created by an attack upon the United States, its territories, possessions, or its Armed Forces." But in this case, no such condition existed and thus the violation of the Constitution.

Yet, earlier today, my colleagues across the aisle voted to allow the President to continue to violate the law and violate the Constitution. When will we say enough is enough?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to close.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, let us today, all 100 Senators, uphold our oath to the Constitution. The indiscriminate use of American bombs in Iran and Lebanon and Gaza that targets civilians and infrastructure by Israel must end. We should not sell these bulldozers and these bombs to Israel.

I urge my colleagues to vote for these two joint resolutions of disapproval.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight in support of Senator SANDERS' joint resolutions of disapproval for select arms sales to Israel. The Senate has voted on similar resolutions in the past, all of which I have supported. The last time this Chamber voted on prior resolutions, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was bombarding Gaza. A cease-fire had collapsed, hostage release negotiations had stalled, and innocent children and families in Gaza were starving and suffering. That was because the Netanyahu government, fueled by extremist Israeli National Security Minister Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Smotrich and supported by the Trump administration, was blocking humanitarian aid from reaching Palestinians in Gaza. The large-scale bombs covered by those resolutions went far beyond what Israel needed for its defense. Their use would cause indiscriminate damage and only worsen the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

Now, the need for restrictions on military aid to Netanyahu has only taken on renewed urgency. The Trump administration is proposing to sell to Netanyahu 1,000-pound bombs and armored bulldozers that Netanyahu could

use not only in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon but also in Trump's illegal and unnecessary war in Iran. I fully support the current cease-fire with Iran, but tenuous as it may be, Vice President JD VANCE's bid for a peace deal in Pakistan last weekend failed, and fighting could resume at any time.

So make no mistake, a vote to approve arms sales to Israel at this time would be seen as a message of approval for Trump and Netanyahu's disastrous war against Iran. I will not send that message. Trump's war of choice in Iran is a moral tragedy and economic disaster playing out before our eyes. It is only making the United States, Israel, and the world less safe.

Let us count the ways:

One, we have seen thousands of civilian deaths in Iran and Lebanon. More than 100 Iranian schoolgirls have been killed by American weapons, and 13 American servicemembers have been killed and hundreds injured.

Two, the United States and the Netanyahu government are losing credibility. In particular, President Trump's threats of war crimes and genocide against Iran are a total abdication of moral leadership on the global stage and must be opposed here and everywhere.

Three, the United States and Iran are blockading the Strait of Hormuz—crippling the global economy and sending energy prices sky high.

Four, gas prices in America are \$1.20 a gallon higher than before the war. Vehicle owners will be paying \$500 to \$600 more here in the United States over the course of this next year. It is going to be Trump at the pump. The American people are going to be paying for this war.

Five, this dangerous, unnecessary, and expensive war has cost the American taxpayer about \$50 billion so far, with the Trump administration seeking hundreds of billions of dollars more as part of a \$1.5 trillion military budget, which must be rejected.

Six, Iran still controls its uranium.

Seven, there has been no regime change. We just swapped out one Ayatollah for another.

And, eight, Iranians are still not free. Why would we send American military weapons that could prolong, escalate, or worsen this horrible situation in the Middle East?

I say no more. The Senate should express its opposition to Trump and Netanyahu's needless war and seek to stop it.

No. 1, we should pass these resolutions to block 1,000-pound bombs and armored bulldozers for use in this war.

No. 2, we should pass a War Powers Resolution that denies President Trump the authority to continue this war.

And, No. 3, we should reject any request for funding to pay for Trump's war of choice.

Today, we must send a clear message that the U.S. Senate opposes—in the strongest possible terms—Trump and

Netanyahu's dangerous, expensive, unnecessary, and immoral war.

There is no military solution to this crisis. We must solve this at the negotiating table. We must end this war now. We must pass these resolutions in order to have the U.S. Senate speak to our outrage at what is happening in the name of the American people.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senator SANDERS' resolutions. I will be voting for both of them.

On February 21, 2024, I wrote a public letter to President Biden, and I said: The Hamas attack on Israel is devastating and Israel faces threats from other adversaries in the region and we should help Israel defend its civilians, but we should do so only by providing defensive weapons to Israel and not offensive weapons.

Why defensive weapons?

We have long been a security partner of Israel. Those who follow the relationship understand there are threats to Israeli civilians that are very present because of actors in the region like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis; and Iran and Iranian-backed militias and Israeli civilians do face threats that warrant the United States providing defensive support.

But I took the public position more than 2 years ago now that it would be wrong to send offensive weapons to Israel, and that position was based on exactly the same reason, to protect civilians—protect Palestinian civilians, protect Lebanese civilians—to protect civilians. Offensive weapons delivered to Israel in the way they are using them, particularly bombs, are guaranteed to cause mass civilian suffering. That is what has happened in Gaza, and that is what is happening in Lebanon.

Anyone who has paid attention to this region just has to answer this question: Is more civilian death going to get us to the right place?

This is a region that has been replete with the deaths of civilians, and the U.S. taxpayer and this body should not be pouring gasoline or adding tinder to a fire where more and more civilians are in jeopardy.

So, since that public letter to President Biden, I have supported Senator SANDERS and other resolutions before. If weapons are offensive in nature, the United States shouldn't be transferring them, and I will support the resolutions for that matter. We need to protect civilians. We don't need to pour gasoline on a fire in the region and accelerate more deaths of civilians.

I have received some outreach about this particular vote from some who say this is a vote to deny all military aid to Israel. That is not what this vote is about. This is about denying particular weapons that are offensive in nature.

Just to give you an order of magnitude, during this term of Congress, the President has noticed 27 different arms transfers to Israel; and with these

two joint resolutions of disapproval, we have challenged 6—6 of those 27 arms transfers—as being offensive in nature. We have not challenged 21 of the arms transfers that are primarily defensive in nature. There has not been a single Senator who has brought up a challenge to the defensive arms sales because we want to protect civilian lives; but when weapons like this that are offensive in nature are guaranteed to lead to the deaths of civilians, I think it is appropriate to challenge them, and that is why I am going to support these resolutions.

I have also had some say that, if these resolutions succeed, the United States is reducing its support for Israeli defense. That is also not true. The support for Israeli defense is the result of a 10-year memorandum of understanding that has an annual allocation for Israeli defense that has been supplemented by a supplemental bill that was passed by this body in April of 2024. That amount of money, which is an annual allocation, gets drawn down by these transfers.

I would urge my colleagues to support the cessation of offensive weapons transfers. If this bill succeeds, it doesn't reduce support for Israeli defense by a single penny. It just means that Israel should request and the United States should consider transferring defensive weapons to enable Israel to defend its own civilians but not to carry out military action that would harm other civilians.

The principle of "let's just stop the damage to civilians in the region" seems to me to be overwhelming. If the deaths of civilians were accomplishing anything, we would have seen that accomplishment long before now. So stopping the transfer of offensive weapons seems to me to be the right thing to do not just for the United States security interests and the safety of our servicemembers in the region, but it is also the right thing to do to promote regional stability and the security of Israel.

For that reason, I will vote for the resolutions, and I appreciate my colleague for introducing them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me thank Senator VAN HOLLEN, Senator MERKLEY, Senator MARKEY, Senator KAINE, and, before that, Senator KELLY for their remarks.

The American people increasingly are sick and tired of spending billions of dollars in support of illegal, horrific military actions on the part of the Netanyahu government. We have spent tens of billions of dollars already. Gaza has been destroyed—10 percent of the population dead or wounded. Netanyahu got Trump into a war in Iran. Thousands of civilians are now dead, including many children, and now Netanyahu is at war in Lebanon—thousands of civilians dead, civilian neighborhoods bombed, a million people displaced from their homes, and 14

percent of Lebanese territory occupied by Israel.

What the American people are saying is: Enough is enough.

By the way, this is bipartisan. It is not just Democrats, and it is not just Independents. It is a significant number of Republicans who remember President Trump talking about "America First" and talking about the need to invest in this country, not in bombs and bulldozers to destroy people in the Middle East.

With that, I would hope that we would have a very strong vote in support of these resolutions to tell Netanyahu and to tell the world that enough is enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as everyone in this Chamber knows, Israel is one of the closest allies in the Middle East. No one can discount the fact that without Israel and President Trump's maximum pressure campaign, Iran would have nuclear weapons, would still be exporting terror throughout the region, and would still pose a significant military threat to its neighbors and, indeed, to a good share of the rest of the world.

Unlike some of our other allies, Israel has stood side by side with the United States, working hand in glove to advance our shared objectives and to keep American citizens safe. Passing these two resolutions would embolden our adversary Iran and call into question American reliability in the region. Refusing to send help to allies and to sell weapons to allies would be incredibly debilitating to our ability to work together. It would send the message that the United States is prepared to leave our ally Israel vulnerable to further Iranian attacks and put the tens of thousands of Americans who are living there at risk. This is not acceptable.

Again, I come to the floor and tell Iran: No one is coming to help you, not China, not Russia, not North Korea, not Venezuela, not Cuba—except for the 47 people that sit over here. They are trying to help you, Iran.

We are not going to let that happen. We are not going to abandon our ally Israel. We are not going to abandon the fight that is taking place. We are going to win this fight and have already won it, to a very large extent.

Let us not forget the Iranian regime has been exporting terrorism and chanting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" consistently since the founding of this regime 47 years ago. Enough is enough.

It is time to continue this until we get to the end. This is not going to be a forever war. The country of Iran is very badly debilitated right now. I would hope that common sense prevails and they reach an agreement with the administration and get to a permanent cease-fire.

I would urge all of my colleagues: Oppose these resolutions. They will not help the United States of America.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 32.

Mr. RISCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

The result was announced—yeas 40, nays 59, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 80 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Bennet	King	Shaheen
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Booker	Lujan	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Hassan	Ossoff	Welch
Heinrich	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Peters	Wyden
Hirono	Reed	
Kaine	Sanders	

NAYS—59

Armstrong	Ernst	Moran
Banks	Fetterman	Moreno
Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Gillibrand	Paul
Blumenthal	Graham	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Britt	Hagerty	Rosen
Budd	Hawley	Rounds
Capito	Hoeven	Schmitt
Cassidy	Husted	Schumer
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Coons	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Curtis	McCormick	Young
Daines	Moody	

NOT VOTING—1

Lummis

The motion was rejected.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 138.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 36, nays 63, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 81 Leg.]

YEAS—36

Alsobrooks	Booker	Gallego
Baldwin	Cantwell	Hassan
Bennet	Duckworth	Heinrich
Blunt Rochester	Durbin	Hickenlooper

Hirono	Merkley	Shaheen
Kaine	Murphy	Slotkin
Kelly	Murray	Smith
Kim	Ossoff	Van Hollen
King	Padilla	Warnock
Klobuchar	Sanders	Warren
Lujan	Schatz	Welch
Markey	Schiff	Wyden

NAYS—63

Armstrong	Fetterman	Moreno
Banks	Fischer	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rosen
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Schumer
Coons	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Curtis	McCormick	Whitehouse
Daines	Moody	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Tillis

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I move that, for the remainder of the votes this evening, all votes be limited to 17 minutes and, at the end of 17 minutes, voting automatically expire ipso facto without any discretion whatsoever.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO PUBLIC LAND ORDER NO. 7917 FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LANDS; COOK, LAKE, AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTIES, MN—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate has received H.J. Res. 140 from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to H.J. Res. 140.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 140, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to Public Land Order No. 7917 for Withdrawal of Federal Lands; Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, MN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to make a point of order, and I ask for 1 minute of comment without objection.