

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 508

Expressing support for the expeditious consideration and finalization of a new, robust, and long-term Memorandum of Understanding on military assistance to Israel between the United States Government and the Government of Israel.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2016

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. COONS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the expeditious consideration and finalization of a new, robust, and long-term Memorandum of Understanding on military assistance to Israel between the United States Government and the Government of Israel.

Whereas in April 1998 the United States designated Israel as a “major non-NATO ally”;

Whereas, on August 16, 2007, the United States and Israel signed a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on United States military assistance to Israel, under which total assistance would equal \$30,000,000,000;

Whereas, since the signing of the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, intelligence and defense cooperation has continued to grow;

Whereas, on October 15, 2008, the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2008 was signed into law (Public Law 110–429), defining Israel’s qualitative military edge (QME) as “the ability to counter and defeat any credible conventional military threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors, while sustaining minimal damage and casualties, through the use of superior military means, possessed in sufficient quantity, including weapons, command, control, communication, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities that in their technical characteristics are superior in capability to those of such other individual or possible coalition of states or non-state actors”;

Whereas, on July 27, 2012, the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–150) declared it to be the policy of the United States “to help the Government of Israel preserve its qualitative military edge amid rapid and uncertain regional political transformation”;

Whereas Israel faces immediate threats to its security from the United States-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, Hezbollah, and its missile and rocket stockpile estimated to number around 150,000, and from the United States-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, Hamas, which continues to attempt to rebuild its tunnel network to infiltrate Israel and restock its own missile and rocket stockpiles;

Whereas Israel also faces immediate threats to its security from the ongoing regional instability in the Middle East,

especially from the ongoing conflict in Syria and from militant groups in the Sinai;

Whereas Iran remains a threat to Israel, as demonstrated by Iran’s continued bellicosity, including several hostile and provocative tests of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, even reportedly marking several of these weapons with Hebrew words declaring “Israel must be wiped out”;

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

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

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) reaffirms that Israel is a major strategic
3 partner of the United States;

4 (2) reaffirms that it is the policy and law of the
5 United States to ensure that Israel maintains its
6 qualitative military edge and has the capacity and

1 capability to defend itself from all credible military
2 threats;

3 (3) reaffirms United States support of a robust
4 Israeli tiered missile defense program;

5 (4) supports continued discussions between the
6 United States Government and the Government of
7 Israel for a robust and long-term Memorandum of
8 Understanding on United States military assistance
9 to Israel;

10 (5) urges the expeditious finalization of a new
11 Memorandum of Understanding between the United
12 States Government and the Government of Israel;
13 and

14 (6) supports a robust and long-term Memo-
15 randum of Understanding negotiated between the
16 United States and Israel regarding military assist-
17 ance that increases the amount of aid from previous
18 agreements and significantly enhances Israel's mili-
19 tary capabilities.

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