

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4133

To express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2012

Mr. CANTOR (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of Israel, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel
5 Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Since 1948, United States Presidents and
2 both houses of Congress, on a bipartisan basis and
3 supported by the American people, have repeatedly
4 reaffirmed the special bond between the United
5 States and Israel, based on shared values and
6 shared interests.

7 (2) The Middle East is undergoing rapid
8 change, bringing with it hope for an expansion of de-
9 mocracy but also great challenges to the national se-
10 curity of the United States and our allies in the re-
11 gion, particularly our most important ally in the re-
12 gion, Israel. The past year has witnessed the fall of
13 some regimes long considered to be pillars of sta-
14 bility in the Middle East and a rise in the influence
15 of radical Islamists throughout the region.

16 (3) Iran, which has long sought to foment in-
17 stability and promote extremism in the Middle East,
18 is now seeking to exploit the dramatic political tran-
19 sition underway in the region to undermine govern-
20 ments traditionally aligned with the United States
21 and support extremist political movements in these
22 countries.

23 (4) At the same time, Iran may soon attain a
24 nuclear weapons capability, a development that
25 would fundamentally threaten vital American inter-

1 ests, destabilize the region, encourage regional nu-
2 clear proliferation, further empower and embolden
3 Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism,
4 and provide it the tools to threaten its neighbors, in-
5 cluding Israel.

6 (5) Over the past several years, with the assist-
7 ance of Iran and Syria, Hizballah and Hamas have
8 increased their stockpiles of rockets, with more than
9 60,000 rockets now ready to be fired at Israel. Iran
10 continues to add to its arsenal of ballistic missiles
11 and cruise missiles, which threaten Iran’s neighbors,
12 Israel, and United States military forces in the re-
13 gion.

14 (6) As a result, the strategic environment that
15 has kept Israel secure and safeguarded United
16 States national interests for the past 35 years has
17 eroded.

18 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

19 It is the policy of the United States:

20 (1) To reaffirm the enduring commitment of
21 the United States to the security of the State of
22 Israel as a Jewish state. As President Obama stated
23 on December 16, 2011, “America’s commitment and
24 my commitment to Israel and Israel’s security is
25 unshakeable.”. And as President Bush stated before

1 the Knesset on the 60th anniversary of the founding
2 of the State of Israel on May 15, 2008, “The alli-
3 ance between our governments is unbreakable, yet
4 the source of our friendship runs deeper than any
5 treaty.”.

6 (2) To provide Israel the military capabilities
7 necessary to deter and defend itself by itself against
8 any threats.

9 (3) To veto any one-sided anti-Israel resolutions
10 at the United Nations Security Council.

11 (4) To support Israel’s inherent right to self-de-
12 fense.

13 (5) To pursue avenues to expand cooperation
14 with Israel in both defense and across the spectrum
15 of civilian sectors, including high technology, agri-
16 culture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and en-
17 ergy.

18 (6) To assist Israel with its on-going efforts to
19 forge a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Israeli-
20 Palestinian conflict that results in two states living
21 side by side in peace and security, and to encourage
22 Israel’s neighbors to recognize Israel’s right to exist
23 as a Jewish state.

1 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ACTIONS TO ASSIST IN THE DE-**
2 **FENSE OF ISRAEL AND PROTECT AMERICAN**
3 **INTERESTS.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the United States should take the following ac-
6 tions to assist in the defense of Israel:

7 (1) Provide Israel such support as may be nec-
8 essary to increase development and production of
9 joint missile defense systems, particularly such sys-
10 tems that defend the urgent threat posed to Israel
11 and United States forces in the region.

12 (2) Provide Israel defense articles and defense
13 services through such mechanisms as appropriate, to
14 include air refueling tankers, missile defense capa-
15 bilities, and specialized munitions.

16 (3) Allocate additional weaponry and munitions
17 for the forward-deployed United States stockpile in
18 Israel.

19 (4) Provide Israel additional surplus defense ar-
20 ticles and defense services, as appropriate, in the
21 wake of the withdrawal of United States forces from
22 Iraq.

23 (5) Strengthen efforts to prevent weapons
24 smuggling into Gaza pursuant to the 2005 Agree-
25 ment on Movement and Access following the Israeli
26 withdrawal from Gaza and to protect against weap-

1 ons smuggling and terrorist threats from the Sinai
2 Peninsula.

3 (6) Offer the Israeli Air Force additional train-
4 ing and exercise opportunities in the United States
5 to compensate for Israel's limited air space.

6 (7) Expand Israel's authority to make pur-
7 chases under the Foreign Military Financing pro-
8 gram on a commercial basis.

9 (8) Seek to enhance the capabilities of the
10 United States and Israel to address emerging com-
11 mon threats, increase security cooperation, and ex-
12 pand joint military exercises.

13 (9) Encourage an expanded role for Israel with-
14 in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),
15 including an enhanced presence at NATO head-
16 quarters and exercises.

17 (10) Support extension of the long-standing
18 loan guarantee program for Israel, recognizing
19 Israel's unbroken record of repaying its loans on
20 time and in full.

21 (11) Expand already-close intelligence coopera-
22 tion, including satellite intelligence, with Israel.

23 (b) REPORT ON ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY
24 EDGE.—

1 (1) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of
2 the United States—

3 (A) to help Israel preserve its qualitative
4 military edge amid rapid and uncertain regional
5 political transformation; and

6 (B) to encourage further development of
7 advanced technology programs between the
8 United States and Israel current trends and in-
9 stability in the region.

10 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
12 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
13 mittees a report on the status of Israel’s qualitative
14 military edge in light of current trends and insta-
15 bility in the region.

16 (c) REPORTS ON OTHER MATTERS.—Not later than
17 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
18 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
19 committees a report on each of the following:

20 (1) Taking into account Israel’s urgent require-
21 ment for F–35 aircraft, actions to improve the proc-
22 ess relating to Israel’s purchase of F–35 aircraft to
23 improve cost efficiency and timely delivery.

24 (2) Efforts to expand cooperation between the
25 United States and Israel in homeland security,

1 counter-terrorism, maritime security, energy, cyber-
2 security, and other appropriate areas.

3 (3) Actions to integrate Israel into the defense
4 of the Eastern Mediterranean.

5 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
7 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
8 mittees” means—

9 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
10 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
11 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives; and

13 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
14 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
15 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

16 (2) QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE.—The term
17 “qualitative military edge” has the meaning given
18 the term in section 36(h)(2) of the Arms Export
19 Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)(2)).

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