

CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR

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CongressionalMonitor.org, the companion site to this *JPS* section, provides in-depth summaries of all bills and many resolutions listed here.

Published annually, the Congressional Monitor summarizes all bills and resolutions pertinent to Palestine, Israel, or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict that are introduced during the previous session of Congress. It is part of a wider project of the Institute for Palestine Studies that includes the Congressional Monitor Database (Congressional Monitor.org). The database contains all relevant legislation from 2001 to the present (the 107th Congress through the 112th Congress) and is updated on an ongoing basis. The monitor identifies major legislative themes related to the Palestine issue as well as initiators of specific legislation, their priorities, the range of their concerns, and their attitudes toward regional actors. Material in this compilation is drawn from www.thomas.loc.gov, the official legislative site of the Library of Congress, which includes a detailed primer on the legislative process entitled "How Our Laws Are Made."

The 112th Congress was in session from 1/2011 to 1/2013. The first session (convened on 1/5/11 and adjourned on 1/3/12) was covered in *JPS* 164. The second session, covered below, opened on 1/3/12 and adjourned on 1/3/13, bringing the 112th Congress to a close.

During the second session of the 112th Congress, 79 measures relevant to Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab-Israeli conflict were acted on, a similar total to recent sessions. Of these, 71 were newly introduced and 8 were carried over from the first session in 2011.

Congressional measures fall into 2 broad categories: those that have the force of law if passed (bills and joint resolutions), and those that, if passed, are nonbinding, merely stating the views of Congress on a given issue (simple and concurrent resolutions). Bills and joint resolutions tend to be more consequential, and a smaller percentage of them pass. Simple and concurrent resolutions typically "urge," "recognize," "support," or "encourage" persons and events, and while they cannot become law, they are important indicators of the mood of Congress.

Of the 79 relevant measures, 48 were bills or joint resolutions, 8 of which passed into law (up from 3 in the first session). The remaining 31 measures were simple or concurrent resolutions, 11 of which passed (up from 8 in the first session).

It is worth noting that not all of the measures listed below focus primarily on the issues of concern to this monitor. Of the 79 measures considered, 19 address multiple or broader issues, with Israel, the Palestinians, Iran, and the wider region representing only a portion (and sometimes only a fraction) of the measure in question. All 19 of these bills or joint resolutions, which, having the force of law if passed, tend to be (as noted above) more consequential.

Eight of the 19 addressing multiple or broader issues are appropriations and authorizations bills, annual acts of Congress that provide legal authority and funding for U.S. programs and agencies. This session, relevant funding was provided by appropriations bills involving such issues as national defense, energy and water development, State Department and foreign operations, and disaster relief. A number of these have great

import for the region, but by their very nature they cover many regions of the world, of which the Middle East is only one. Of the 8 appropriations and authorizations bills relating to our subject matter that were introduced in 2012, 2 passed. First, the **National Defense Authorization Act** (*H.R. 4310 of 3/29/12) provided the authority to transfer support funds to Israeli missile defense programs and expanded sanctions on Iran. Second, the **Continuing Appropriations Resolution** (*H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12) allowed for the extension of the FY 2012 budget, averting a government shutdown and approving funding for Israel, the Palestinian Authority (PA), other countries in the Middle East, and federal agencies servicing the region.

Besides the appropriations and authorizations bills, the other 11 bills in this category focus on specific sectors (e.g., cybersecurity, Western Hemisphere security, homeland security, older Americans, the Food and Drug Administration, and agricultural reform and jobs). In these bills, the topic or topics of relevance to the monitor, which are not necessarily directly related to the subject of the bill in question, may be dealt with in a single paragraph or amendment.

Overview of Legislative Trends

Measures acted upon during the second session of the 112th Congress relating to Israel, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the wider region can be divided into 3 broad categories: those that benefit Israel directly or indirectly, those that serve Israel's interests by undermining its adversaries, and those responding to the recent turmoil in the Middle East. Much of this legislation is aimed, in one way or another, at strengthening the U.S.-Israeli alliance.

An overview of the measures that passed this session is as follows: Of the 8 bills that were passed by both chambers of Congress and signed into law, 3 principally benefited Israel, 2 undermined Israel's adversaries, 1 memorialized the Holocaust, and 2 were large appropriations or authorizations bills that covered many topics. Of the 11 simple or concurrent resolutions that passed, 3 undermined Iran individually, 1 targeted Iran and Syria together, 2 targeted Hizballah, 2 supported Israel's

Operation Pillar of Defense in Gaza in 11/2012, 2 commemorated Israeli history, and 1 saluted Greece for its history of good relations with Israel and Muslim countries.

Benefiting Israel

As in past years, this was the largest category of measures presented in the monitor. Just over half the 79 total measures, or 39, benefited Israel either directly or indirectly. Of these 39, 24 were bills or joint resolutions and 15 were simple or concurrent resolutions. Overall, the 39 measures seen as strengthening or benefiting Israel can be divided into 3 main groups, as follows:

- **Quantifiable Benefits.** Twenty bills and joint resolutions—carrying the force of law if passed—are in this group, 4 of which passed. These bills strengthened the U.S.-Israel relationship by transferring direct military aid, increasing Israeli citizens' special privileges, and extending financial and diplomatic benefits. Specific examples of measures in this category would have increased levels of aid for the Iron Dome missile defense system (H.R. 4229 of 3/21/12, *H.R. 4310 of 3/29/12), extended U.S. loan guarantees to Israel (H.R. 4197 of 3/16/12, *H.R. 4133 of 3/5/12), or allowed Israeli citizens special rights to investigate copyrighted devices (S. 2292 of 4/17/12). Also included in this subcategory is direct aid to Israel, addressed in the annual bills that appropriate military support funds and authorize the expansion of U.S.-Israel cooperative programs.
- **Commemorating Israeli and Jewish History.** Fourteen bills and nonbinding resolutions were in this group. Four of these were bills, of which 1 passed, and 10 were simple or concurrent resolutions, of which 2 passed. These measures recognized the heroic actions of individuals or countries during the Holocaust, commemorated tragic events in Israeli history, and increased support for programs serving Holocaust survivors. One successful example called on the International Olympic Cmte. to hold a moment of silence for the anniversary of the athletes killed at the 1972

Munich Olympics (*S. Res. 504 of 6/25/12). Another indicative resolution would have permitted use of the Capitol rotunda in a Holocaust memorial service (H. Con. Res. 108 of 3/19/12).

- **Supporting/Approving Israeli**

Actions. All 5 measures of this group were simple or concurrent resolutions. The 2 successful resolutions in this group passed in 11/2012 after the escalation of violence between the Israeli military and militants in Gaza. The violence prompted swift response from Congress, where both the House and Senate unanimously passed resolutions condemning Hamas's aggression and supporting Israel's right to conduct Operation Pillar of Defense (*S. Res. 599 of 11/15/12, *H. Res. 813 of 11/16/12).

Undermining Israel's Adversaries

Thirty-one of the total 79 measures considered here contain provisions on this theme. Eighteen of the 31 were bills or joint resolutions, 3 of which passed, and 13 were simple or concurrent resolutions, 6 of which passed. Most prevalent among these are measures targeting Iran, followed by Syria and Iranian "proxies" such as Hizballah. The Palestinians are also in this category, but their situation is more complex, involving a consistent supply of U.S. aid and numerous behavioral conditions on the use of that aid.

Iran is second only to Israel in the number of measures specifically devoted to it, with increased pressure on Iran often framed in terms of Israel's self-defense. Iran figured explicitly in 20 of the 31 measures on this theme, and was the principal focus of 16 (including 1 that focused both on Iran and Syria). Eleven of the measures focused on Iran were bills and joint resolutions that would have become law if passed. Two of these did pass into law: the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act (*H.R. 1905 of 5/13/2011) and the Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012 (*H.R. 3783 of 1/18/2012), which also cited Hizballah. Three of the 9 resolutions mentioning Iran passed. Almost all measures specifically targeting Iran involved expanding sanctions and/or preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear capability.

In the perceptions and actions of Congress, Syria has long been treated similarly to Iran as an enemy of Israel. Although the ongoing civil war in Syria has introduced a new dimension, this treatment continues in 4 of the 8 measures dealing with Syria (the remaining 4 will be dealt with in the next section). Three of these measures involved the imposition of sanctions—2 bills and 1 simple resolution. Of these only the above-mentioned *H.R. 1905 and the resolution supporting it (*H. Res 750 of 8/1/12) passed.

Hizballah was mentioned in 9 measures—4 in connection with Iran, 2 in connection with Syria, 1 in connection with both Iran and Syria, and 2 alone. The 2 measures targeting Hizballah alone were simple resolutions that called on the EU to designate Hizballah a terrorist organization (*H. Res. 834 of 12/17/12, *S. Res. 613 of 12/11/12).

Five measures—4 bills and 1 nonbinding resolution—dealt with the Palestinians. Two of these focused exclusively on them: a simple resolution stating that the PLO should not be allowed to have an office in Washington (H. Res. 524 of 1/24/12), and the Palestine Peace Promotion and Anti-Incitement Act (H.R. 5303 of 4/27/12), which would have created an independent treasury fund for Palestinians through which all aid would flow until incitement ends. The other 3 bills in the group were large appropriations bills with provisions involving aid to the Palestinians. Like the above-mentioned "anti-incitement" bill, they sought to condition U.S. aid on Palestinian performance with regard to the peace process. The only 1 of the 5 measures to pass was the Continuing Appropriations Resolution (*H.J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12).

Regional Reactions

Throughout 2012, Congress struggled to formulate a comprehensive U.S. response to the ongoing regional turmoil. Some lawmakers saw it as a potential threat to Israel's security; others saw it as an opportunity to express American values. Specifically, events in Egypt, Syria, and Turkey attracted substantial attention from Congress. Sixteen of the 79 measures considered by this monitor carried provisions on this theme. Of these, 12 were

bills and joint resolutions, 1 of which passed, and 4 were simple or concurrent resolutions, none of which passed.

In reaction to the popular uprisings, 8 bills and 1 resolution were introduced to deal with Egypt, 1 of which passed. These measures would have either cut off all U.S. military aid (S. 3576 of 9/19/12, H.R. 6646 of 12/11/12), conditioned aid on the 1979 Egypt-Israel peace treaty (S. 3670 of 12/12/12, H.R. 6657 of 12/13/12), or maintained levels of aid from previous years (*H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12, S. 3241 of 5/24/12).

The ongoing violence plaguing Syria in 2012 was another source of congressional uncertainty. Though there were 8 total measures dealing with Syria, only 4 were principally responses to the ongoing civil war. These 4 measures would have facilitated congressional oversight on any future U.S. intervention (S. 2224 of 3/22/12, H. Res. 770 of 8/2/12), imposed sanctions on human rights abusers (S. 2034 of 1/24/12), and imposed sanctions on Syria's petroleum and finance sectors (S. 2152 of 3/2/12).

Since the 2010 attack on the *Mavi Marmara* aid flotilla, relations between Israel and Turkey have been rocky. In 2012, there were 3 measures introduced that constituted American attempts to manage that antagonism and to ensure Israeli dominance in the region. These 3 measures—1 bill, 1 simple resolution, and 1 concurrent resolution—would have either permitted the sale of defense materials to Turkey (H.R. 6649 of 12/11/12) or supported Cyprus's efforts to defend itself from Turkish influence (H. Res. 676 of 6/5/12, S. Con. Res. 47 of 6/6/12). None of the 3 measures passed.

Notes on Legislative Procedure

For a bill to become law it must be agreed to in identical form by both houses and signed by the president. The president may refuse to sign a bill, and thus veto it, but the veto can be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber. If Congress is not in session, the president can veto a bill simply by not taking action for 10 days after its presentation ("pocket veto"). Simple or concurrent resolutions have no legal force if passed. Simple resolutions (designated H./S. Res.) are debated in only 1 chamber and concurrent resolutions

(designated H./S. Con. Res.) in both; resolutions require a simple majority to pass. After a bill or resolution is introduced, it is automatically referred to the appropriate committee; in the majority of cases (49 of 79 cases in this session), it goes no further.

Understanding the Congressional Monitor

Presented here is a list of all relevant bills and resolutions acted on in 2012. Measures are listed in the order in which they were first introduced, with a brief title provided after the date. The second line of each entry provides the bill or resolution number, the name and affiliation of the original sponsor, and the number of cosponsors.

For many bills and resolutions, a "see also" entry has been added to refer readers to similar or related measures.

The "last major action" entry indicates where the bill or resolution stood at the end of the Congress in 1/2013.

Due to the large number of bills and resolutions introduced this session and to space limitations, summaries are provided only for those bills that passed into law this session or for bills or resolutions whose context or relevance is not clear. In-depth summaries of all bills and most resolutions are available at **CongressionalMonitor.org**.

Key:

- * ——— Denotes a bill that became law or a resolution that passed
- H.A. ——— House Amendment
- H. Con. Res. ——— House Concurrent Resolution
- H. J. Res. ——— House Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- H.R. ——— House Bill (having the force of law)
- H. Res. ——— Simple House Resolution
- S. ——— Senate Bill (having the force of law)
- S.A. ——— Senate Amendment
- S. Con. Res. ——— Senate Concurrent Resolution
- S. J. Res. ——— Senate Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- S. Res. ——— Simple Senate Resolution
- Voice vote: Vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded
- Vote tally: Yea–Nay–Present

25 January 2011: Establishing the special envoy to promote religious freedom of religious minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia

H.R. 440, Frank Wolf (R-VA), 80 cosponsors.

See also: companion measure S. 1245 of 6/22/11.

Last major action: 1/23/12 placed on Senate legislative calendar (7/29/11 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 402–20).

11 February 2011: Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013

H.R. 1, Harold Rogers (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill, the original version of which was titled “Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011,” would provide funding for disaster relief following Hurricane Sandy. The following amendment relates to Israel and the Palestinians:

S. A. 3410, introduced on 12/20/12 by Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This amendment would offset all funding provided by the bill by cutting an equal amount from U.S. foreign assistance programs. The cuts would target the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which oversees U.S. assistance programs in the West Bank and Gaza; the Economic Support Fund, which funds USAID programs; and the foreign military financing program, which provides grants for Israeli military purchases. The amendment was defeated in the Senate 3–91 on 12/28/12.

See also: H.R. 1473 of 4/11/11, and H.R. 5856 of 5/25/12.

Last major action: 12/28/12 passed in Senate 62–32 (12/19/11 passed in House 235–189).

***1 March 2011: Condemning Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority**

S. Res. 80, Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL), 30 cosponsors.

This resolution cites the arrest and trial of 7 Baha’i leaders for charges of espionage for Israel.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 134 of 3/1/11.

Last major action: 3/29/12 passed in Senate by voice vote.

***1 March 2011: Condemning Iran for its persecution of its Baha’i minority**

H. Res. 134, Robert Dold (R-IL), 146 cosponsors.

See also: similar measure S. Res. 80 of 3/1/11.

Last major action: 1/1/13 passed in House by voice vote.

***13 May 2011: Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012**

H.R. 1905, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 364 cosponsors.

This bill, introduced last session as the “Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011,” was subsequently combined with the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act (S. 2034 of 1/24/12). It is the most major expansion of sanctions on Iran in recent years and represents the culmination of multiple efforts throughout the 112th Congress.

The bill seeks to create a comprehensive strategy that includes economic sanctions, diplomacy, and military planning, capabilities, and options. The bill’s premise is that denying Iran a nuclear weapon is critical for U.S. security interests. Rather than significantly increasing pressure, this bill expands and streamlines the existing program by blocking avenues Iran had been using to circumvent previous sanctions.

The Iran component of the bill seeks to curtail Iran’s nuclear program by expanding existing sanctions on the Iranian shipping and energy sectors and individuals involved with Iran’s energy, banking, and finance sectors; with human rights abuses; or with the nuclear program. The new sanctions also cover individuals involved in deals with individuals responsible for the shipping and transportation of weapons of mass destruction, the materials to create them, and materials transferred to foreign terrorist organizations.

The bill also authorizes increased U.S. assistance to Iranian opposition groups and tightens sanctions against members of the Revolutionary Guard. It requires the president to create a list of Iranian government officials who are involved in illicit nuclear activities or who support international terror or the commission of serious human rights abuses, subjecting all individuals on the list (and their families) to sanctions and barring their entry to the U.S. The bill restricts the

president's ability to waive these new sanctions by requiring a case-by-case assessment and reporting to Congress.

This new sanctions program does maintain the loophole for the 20 countries that significantly reduced their oil purchases from Iran. The bill calls for development of additional incentives for purchase of crude oil outside of Iran, expanded efforts to limit import of Iranian crude oil from the international community, and elimination of revenue generated from trade on Iranian crude oil in other countries.

The bill was the subject of election-year partisan politics. In May of 2011, the Senate version was held up by Republican senators who wished to increase the sanctions' severity. On 5/17/12, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) brought an updated version of the bill to the floor for a vote, but Republicans blocked it, renegeing on private agreements. It was at that point, during last-minute negotiations, that Republican senators expanded the scope of the bill's new sanctions beyond the Iranian oil industry to cover the banking and finance sectors, thus making passage possible. (Sen. Jim Demint [R-SC] framed the new sanctions as a defense of Israel.) Reporting on the bill's passage, the *Teburan Times* commented that the "US Congress is in the hands of the Israel Lobby." This bill was a major focus for the American Israeli Political Action Committee (AIPAC), NORPAC, the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, and the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA).

For the Syria portion of this bill, see S. 2034 of 1/24/12.

See also: H. Res. 750 of 8/1/12 and S. 2034 of 1/24/12.

Last major action: 8/10/12 became public law 112-158 (5/21/12 passed in Senate by voice vote; 12/14/11 passed in House 410–11).

***21 September 2011: Awarding a congressional gold medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his heroic actions during the Holocaust**

H.R. 3001, Gregory W. Meeks (D-NY), 301 cosponsors.

See also: companion measure S. 1591 of 9/21/11 and related measures H. Con. Res. 33 of 4/4/11 and S. 900 of 5/5/11.

Last major action: 7/26/12 became public law 112-148 (7/11/12 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 4/16/12 passed in House 377–0).

6 October 2011: Dept. of Homeland Security Authorization Act for FY 2012

H.R. 3116, Peter T. King (R-NY), 12 cosponsors.

This bill would require the secretary of homeland security to report to Congress on the presence of Hizballah along the U.S.-Mexican border. It also states the sense of Congress that countering the activities of Iran and Hizballah in the Western Hemisphere should be included in the 2012 National Strategy for Counterterrorism.

Last major action: 12/21/12 placed on Union calendar for action by full House.

15 December 2011: Promoting and Enhancing Cybersecurity and Information Sharing Effectiveness Act of 2012 (PRECISE Act)

H.R. 3674, Daniel Lungren (R-CA), 10 cosponsors.

This bill includes Israel in a list of allies whose cybersecurity research and development activities the U.S. may support.

Last major action: 9/21/12 placed on the Union calendar for action by the full House.

***18 January 2012: Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012**

H.R. 3783, Jeff Duncan (R-SC), 87 cosponsors.

This bill would require the secretary of state to develop a comprehensive strategy to counter the activities of Iran and its proxies (specifically Hizballah) in the Western Hemisphere. The requested report will be classified and will detail specific policies that the U.S. should undertake to deter Iran and Hizballah.

Last major action: 12/28/12 became public law 112-220 (12/12/12 passed in Senate by voice vote; 9/19/12 passed in House by voice vote).

24 January 2012: Stating the belief that the PLO should not be allowed to maintain an official office in Washington, D.C.

H. Res. 524, Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), 5 cosponsors.

This resolution calls for barring the PLO from maintaining an office in Washington, D.C., if it forms a unity government with Hamas or continues to seek recognition of a Palestinian state from the UN (or any other country) outside of negotiations with Israel.

The current status of the PLO delegation in Washington relies on a presidential certification, which since 1994 must be provided every 6 months.

Last major action: 1/24/12 referred to House cmte.

24 January 2012: Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012

S. 2034, Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), 2 cosponsors.

This bill was attached in its entirety on 5/21/12 as an amendment to *H.R. 1905, which passed into law several days later.

It would require the president to impose sanctions on anyone he finds to be complicit in human rights violations in Syria, to have transferred goods or technologies likely to be used to commit human rights abuses in Syria, to have engaged in censorship in Syria, or to have transferred technologies the president determines censor the free flow of information in Syria. The president would be able to waive the sanctions if he finds it in the U.S. national interest to do so and only after reporting such a decision to Congress.

The sanctions would remain in effect until, inter alia, Syria ceases providing support for Hamas, Hizballah, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

See also: *H.R. 1905 of 5/13/11.

Last major action: 1/24/12 referred to Senate cmte.

***9 February 2012: To allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel**

H.R. 3992, Howard Berman (D-CA), 11 cosponsors.

E-2 visas, also known as merchant and trader visas, are only awarded to immigrants entering the U.S. to manage significant investments they have made in the country.

In a statement praising the bill's introduction, Israeli amb. to the U.S. Michael

Oren indicated that this bill and its Senate companion measure were both drafted in consultation with his embassy's Office of Congressional Affairs.

See also: companion measure S. 921 of 5/9/11.

Last major action: 6/8/12 became public law 112-130 (5/24/12 passed in Senate by unanimous consent; 3/19/12 passed in House 371-0).

13 February 2012: Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Human Rights Act of 2012

S. 2101, Tim Johnson (D-SD), no cosponsors.

This measure was dropped in favor of *H.R. 1905, a bill that included similar provisions.

The bill would expand sanctions on Iran to include the petroleum sector, uranium mining efforts, persons providing technology that could be used to commit human rights abuses in Iran or Syria, and persons who have committed human rights abuses in either country. The bill would also blacklist financial institutions that receive payments for Iranian oil, thereby preventing Iran from using foreign banks as agents to process oil transactions.

See also: *H.R. 1905 of 5/13/11, H.R. 740 and S. 366 of 2/16/11, and S. 1048 of 5/23/11.

Last major action: 2/13/12 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

14 February 2012: Recognizing the importance of the U.S.-Egypt relationship

S. Res. 372, John Kerry (D-MA), 3 cosponsors.

This resolution cites U.S. law conditioning economic and military assistance to Egypt on its compliance with the 1979 peace treaty with Israel and its protection of freedoms of expression, association, religion, and due process.

Last major action: 2/14/12 placed on Senate legislative calendar under general orders.

16 February 2012: Affirming that preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability is a vital U.S. national interest

S. Res. 380, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 77 cosponsors.

Citing Iran's support for Hamas and Hizballah and its threats to wipe Israel off the map, this resolution rejects all policies seeking to "contain" a nuclear weapons-capable Iran and urges the president to oppose any such policies. It is noteworthy that Pres. Obama's stated policy at the time was to prevent Iran from producing a nuclear weapon, whereas this resolution focused on preventing Iran from gaining nuclear weapons *capability*.

Though the resolution had 15 Democrats among its cosponsors, the administration's Iran policy was a largely partisan issue. Growing fears in the Obama admin. that PM Netanyahu was using Congress and the Republicans to pressure the president into a tougher stance on Iran gained credence when this resolution was introduced 3 weeks before AIPAC's annual conference in Washington.

The resolution originally included a clause declaring it to be "within the power and capabilities" of the U.S. to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability, but the language was removed because Democratic senators thought it could appear to suggest authorization to use force against Iran. Democrats also pressed for a clause urging continued diplomatic and economic pressures until Iran shut down its nuclear program. This measure was the centerpiece of the mobilization efforts against Iran at the annual AIPAC conference, held in 3/2012, and on the final day of the conference thousands of delegates pressed the case in meetings with their congressmen and women.

See also: similar measures H. Res. 568 of 3/1/12, S. J. Res. 41 of 5/24/12, and S.A. 2346 to S. 3240 of 5/24/12.

Last major action: 2/16/12 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

***1 March 2012: Affirming that it is a vital U.S. interest to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability**

H. Res. 568, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 331 cosponsors.

See also: similar measures S. Res. 380 of 2/16/12, S. J. Res. 41 of 5/24/12, and S.A. 2346 to S. 3240 of 5/24/12.

Last major action: 5/17/12 passed in House 401–11–9.

2 March 2012: Syria Democracy Transition Act of 2012

S. 2152, Marco Rubio (R-FL), no cosponsors.

Aimed at accelerating "the pace of regime transition," this bill would impose sanctions on Syria's petroleum industry and financial sector. It would also require the president to urge the UNSC to impose further sanctions restricting the travel of Syrian government officials, banning civilian airline flights to Syria, and restricting the flow of goods into and out of Syria. Finally, the bill would authorize the president to establish a \$50 m. Syrian Stabilization Fund to help support opposition groups after regime change in Syria.

Last major action: 3/7/12 referred to Senate cmte.

***5 March 2012: U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012**

H.R. 4133, Eric Cantor (R-VA), 304 cosponsors.

This bill, designed to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship in various new ways, is predicated on the notion that political upheaval in the Middle East could negatively affect Israeli security.

It extends both loan guarantees to Israel and Israel's right to use "obsolete or surplus items" from U.S. war reserve stockpiles (established in 1990 and intended for use by the U.S. or Israel in emergency situations) at Israeli military bases. It also creates a new reporting mechanism to explore new ways to aid the Israeli military.

This iteration of the loan guarantee program was created in 2003 to address an economic recession in Israel brought on by the second intifada (see H.R. 1559 of 4/2/03 at CongressionalMonitor.org for details). It originally authorized up to \$9 b. in guarantees. Of this, \$3.8 b. remained available to Israel, but the program expired on 9/30/11. This bill authorizes the remaining \$3.8 b. to be available for Israel until 9/30/15.

Israel is permitted to use loans backed by this program only to refinance its debt and not for activity beyond its 6/5/1967 borders. Any funds used for settlement activity can be deducted from the remaining loan guarantees; since 2003, \$1.0853 b. has been deducted for

settlement activity and for building the separation wall.

Loan guarantees between states act the same way as between individuals. In this case, an American loan guarantee to Israel is a promise from the U.S. to pay off the balance of Israel's loans if Israel cannot. Loan guarantees from the U.S., a reliable financial entity, enable Israel to obtain lower interest rates. While Israel has not used guarantees since 2005, simply having them improves its credit rating and reduces its interest rates. Most famously, the George H. W. Bush admin. used loan guarantee conditionality as part of the incentive package that persuaded a then-financially desperate Israel to take part in the Madrid Conference of 1991.

The bill requires the president to submit 2 reports to Congress and installs congressional oversight procedures on all the measures listed above. The first report will assess the status of Israel's qualitative military edge "in light of current trends and upheaval in the region." The second will detail the president's actions to improve the cost efficiency and timely delivery of F-35 fighter aircraft to Israel; expand cooperation with Israel on security, energy, and other areas; and integrate Israel into the defense of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The bill also contains nonbinding language identifying specific ways the U.S.-Israel alliance could be strengthened. These include strengthening efforts to prevent weapons smuggling into Gaza, offering the Israeli Air Force additional training opportunities in the U.S., allowing Israel to make more purchases directly from U.S. weapons manufacturers, encouraging an expanded role for Israel in NATO, extending loan guarantees to Israel, and expanding intelligence cooperation, including an expansion of Israeli access to U.S. satellite intelligence.

This bill, introduced the day Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in the U.S. to speak at the 2012 AIPAC conference, was a major focus of AIPAC's lobbying efforts. Indicative of the importance of Israel support in the 2012 presidential race, Pres. Obama signed the bill into law the day before presidential candidate Mitt Romney left for a trip to Israel.

See also: companion measure

*S. 2165 of 3/6/12.

Last major action: 7/27/12 companion measure signed into law (5/9/12 passed in House 411-2-9).

***6 March 2012: U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012**

S. 2165, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 72 cosponsors.

For a summary of this bill, see companion measure *H.R. 4133 of 3/5/12.

Last major action: 7/27/12 became public law 112-150 (7/17/12 passed in House by voice vote; 6/29/12 passed in Senate by voice vote).

8 March 2012: To Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons and Stop War through Diplomacy Act

H.R. 4173, Barbara Lee (D-CA), 35 cosponsors.

In describing the bill's purpose, Congresswoman Lee alluded to "the darkening clouds surrounding Iran's nuclear program" and stated, "We must use all diplomatic tools available, including engaging in direct bilateral and multilateral diplomacy."

In order to "lift the 'no contact' policy and begin negotiations," the bill would appoint a special envoy to Iran and authorize Track II diplomacy (backchannel, or unofficial negotiations) with Tehran. The special envoy would be tasked with entering into "direct, sustained, bilateral, and multilateral negotiations with the government of Iran in order to prevent war and support human rights."

J Street, a liberal advocacy group, backed the bill in a public letter to Pres. Obama initiated by Reps. Steve Cohen (D-TN), John Yarmuth (D-KY), and Gerry Connolly (D-VA). The letter, which also called for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, formed the basis for the J Street conference's lobbying day, during which over 700 conference attendees met with 225 lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Last major action: 3/8/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***15 March 2012: Recognizing 191st anniversary of Greek independence**

S. Res. 398, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 27 cosponsors.

This resolution cites Greece's excellent relations with both Israel and Muslim nations.

See also: S. Res. 51 of 2/15/11.

Last major action: 3/15/12 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

16 March 2012: To extend the authority to provide loan guarantees to Israel

H.R. 4197, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would extend the existing capacity to provide loan guarantees to Israel from its previous expiration date, 9/30/11, to 9/30/15. This measure was eventually passed as a part of *H.R. 4133 of 3/5/12.

Last major action: 3/16/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

19 March 2012: Permitting the use of the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust

H. Con. Res. 108, Patrick Meehan (R-PA), 4 cosponsors.

See also: H. Con. Res. 33 of 4/4/11.

Last major action: 3/27/12 message on Senate action sent to the House (3/22/12 passed/agreed to in Senate without amendment by unanimous consent).

21 March 2012: Directing the secretary of state to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force as a foreign terrorist organization

H.R. 4228, Michael McCaul (R-TX), 24 cosponsors.

Last major action: 5/7/12 referred to House Subcmte. on Middle East and South Asia.

21 March 2012: Iron Dome Support Act

H.R. 4229, Howard Berman (D-CA), 109 cosponsors.

Finding that Israel remains under grave threat from rockets fired from Gaza and Lebanon, this bill authorizes the president to expand assistance for the Iron Dome missile defense system upon request from Israel.

It also finds that the Iron Dome missile defense system has a 90% success rate intercepting rockets from Gaza, and that it has averted mass Israeli casualties

and eliminated the need to conduct a ground incursion into Gaza during cross-border violence.

The first piece of legislation introducing U.S. funding of the Israeli Iron Dome missile defense system was H.R. 5327, United States-Israel Rocket and Missile Defense Cooperation and Support Act of 5/18/2010. A summary of that bill is available at CongressionalMonitor.org.

This measure was introduced 3 days after Israeli amb. to the U.S. Michael Oren wrote in *Politico* asking for additional U.S. funding for 10 more Iron Dome batteries to protect Israel from short-range rocket attacks. Oren's op-ed followed several days of intense exchanges of rocket fire from Gaza and Israeli air strikes. He argued that the missile defense system was essential to Israel's security and helped prevent another conflict in Gaza.

See also: companion measure S. 2325 of 4/19/12.

Last major action: 3/21/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

22 March 2012: Requiring the president to report to Congress on Syrian opposition groups

S. 2224, Bob Corker (R-TN), 2 cosponsors.

The report would include an assessment of the relationship between Hizballah, Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qa'ida, and each of the Syrian opposition groups.

See also: H.R. 4310 of 3/29/12 and S. 3254 of 6/4/12.

Last major action: 5/10/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***29 March 2012: National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2013**

H.R. 4310, Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), 1 cosponsor.

This annual bill gives the Dept. of Defense legal authority to carry out its activities. The relevant sections concern cooperative programs implemented by the Israeli and U.S. armed forces and the Iranian sanctions program.

As is customary, Pres. Obama started the budget process with an executive request detailing his funding priorities for the coming fiscal year. In his request, Pres. Obama budgeted \$99.836 m. for U.S.-Israeli cooperative programs and

\$211 m. for the Iron Dome missile defense system, and demonstrated a desire for overall reductions in defense spending.

This bill authorized \$478.836 m. to fund U.S.-Israeli cooperative programs, exceeding the executive request. Within the \$478.8 m., \$168 m. was authorized to support the David's Sling Weapon System (DSWS), Arrow ASIP, and Arrow-3 systems, for which there was no executive funding request. The rest of the appropriation was made up of Pres. Obama's requested \$211 m. for the Iron Dome, and \$99.8 m. for the cooperative programs. Though it passed in the House, the bicameral reconciliation cmt. struck down an additional \$680 m. in appropriations for research, development, and testing for Israel's Iron Dome system.

As a basis for the authorizations listed here, the final bill, inter alia, sympathizes with families of victims of rocket fire from Hamas-controlled Gaza, recognizes the success of the Iron Dome system, and urges the Depts. of Defense and State to explore with the Israeli government the possible need for additional Iron Dome batteries or other equipment deemed necessary for the defense of Israel.

The House cmt. attempted to add language to the bill noting that the U.S. had contributed almost \$900 m. to the Iron Dome project since its inception yet had no rights to the technology developed. That passage was not included in the reconciled bill, effectively protecting the Israeli copyright on the Iron Dome technology.

In addition to the funds allocated to support Israeli missile defense systems, the bill also expands the ability for the president to sanction Iran. The new sanctions proposed here concern the Iranian oil and petrochemical production because those are the primary sources of funding for the Iranian nuclear weapons program. The bill calls for a full report on the military capabilities of U.S. allies in the Gulf, including the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to be completed within 180 days of its passage.

This bill conveys the sense of Congress that the U.S. should be prepared to take any measure, including military

action, to prevent Iran from threatening the U.S., its allies, or Iran's neighbors with a nuclear weapon.

The battle over the bill's new sanctions was fought specifically over an amendment to the bill proposed by Sens. Menendez (D-NJ) and Kirk (R-IL) and unanimously approved by the Senate on 11/29/12. The amendment increased the targets for sanctions to blacklist Iran's energy, port, shipping, and shipbuilding sectors, while also placing new restrictions on Iran's ability to get insurance for these industries. The Menendez/Kirk amendment was rejected by the reconciliation cmt.

See also: *H.R. 1905 of 5/13/11, S. 3254 of 6/4/12, S. 2224 of 3/22/12

Last major action: 1/2/13 became public law 112-239 (12/4/12 passed in Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent; 5/18/12 passed in House 299-120).

29 March 2012: Recognizing the 64th anniversary of the independence of Israel

H. Con. Res. 115, Ann Marie Buerkle (R-NY), 128 cosponsors.

This measure recognizes Israel as the national homeland for the Jewish people and further reaffirms Congress's support for the U.S.-Israel relationship, Israel's security, and its right to exist as a Jewish and democratic state.

Last major action: 5/7/12 referred to House Subcmt. on Middle East and South Asia.

17 April 2012: Promoting Accountability, Transparency, Innovation, Efficiency, and Timeliness at FDA Act of 2012

S. 2292, Richard Burr (R-NC), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would streamline the Food and Drug Administration. The only clause relevant to Israel includes it on a list of countries whose citizens are given expanded privileges to investigate copyrighted devices.

Last major action: 4/17/12 referred to Senate Cmt. on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

19 April 2012: Iron Dome Support Act

S. 2325, Bill Nelson (D-FL), 22 cosponsors.

For a summary, see H.R. 4229 of 3/21/12.

Last major action: 4/19/12 read twice and referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

24 April 2012: Credible Military Option to Counter Iran Act

H.R. 4485, Michael Conaway (R-TX), 13 cosponsors.

The bill stipulates appropriations for the military and recommends specific maneuvers and preparedness tests. The additional appropriations would increase the U.S. military's ability to operate in the Persian Gulf, to expand military access to the n. Iranian border, to facilitate closer collaboration with the Israeli military, and more specifically to create a significant regional deterrent that would dissuade Iran from pursuing conventional and nuclear military expansion.

It also presents the military partnership with Israel as a necessary condition for confronting a potentially nuclear Iran. Based on that premise, it would authorize the president to allocate a variety of new avenues for distributing aid to Israel and enhancing Israel's military presence. These measures include expanding Israel's role in NATO, establishing a NATO base in Israel, streamlining the process through which the U.S. sells Israel F-35 aircraft, and other efforts in homeland defense, counterterrorism, maritime security, and cybersecurity to integrate Israel into the defense of the Eastern Mediterranean. The only other regional ally with which the bill stipulates increased partnership is Azerbaijan, because it borders Iran to the north.

Last major action: 4/24/12 referred to House Cmtes. on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs.

24 April 2012: Expressing support for Israel's right to self-defense against Iran's nuclear program

H. Res. 630, Paul Gosar (R-AZ), 23 cosponsors.

This measure expresses full support for Israel's right to defend itself from any Iranian aggression, including a strike against Iran's nuclear program.

Last major action: 5/7/12 referred to House Subcmte. on Middle East and South Asia.

27 April 2012: Palestinian Peace Promotion and Anti-Incitement Act

H.R. 5303, Edward R. Royce (R-CA), 30 cosponsors.

This bill would create a single, independent U.S. treasury fund through which all U.S. aid to the PA would flow until incitement ends. It also would condition any aid transfers on proof that the PA is undertaking peace preparation activities, including public acknowledgment of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and the public display of maps that show Israel and Palestine side by side.

Similar to the Economic Support Fund (ESF), this new PA fund would exist separately under the old budget structure. The bill does not create any new funding programs nor does it grant the president any new authorities. The president would have complete authority over the fund and all aid to the PA would come from it.

Incitement is defined broadly as media endorsement or advocacy efforts by PA officials that glorify violence (for example, naming streets after anyone who committed an act of terror).

Last major action: 4/27/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

2 May 2012: Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act

H.R. 5325, Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), no cosponsors.

Under this bill, \$10 m. would be appropriated for Strategic Programs, an amount \$15 m. below FY 2012 and \$48.9 m. below the executive request. The \$10 m. includes \$2 m. for the U.S.-Israel energy cooperative agreement.

On 6/5/12 an amendment cutting off funding for all international programs except the U.S.-Israel energy cooperation program was attached to this bill.

See also: *H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12.

Last major action: 6/11/12 received in the Senate.

9 May 2012: Recognizing the 100th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America in 2012

H. Res. 647, Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), 15 cosponsors.

See also: similar measure S. Res. 448 of 5/9/12.

Last major action: 5/9/12 referred to House cmte.

***9 May 2012: Recognizing the 100th anniversary of Hadassah**

S. Res. 448, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 14 cosponsors.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 647 of 5/9/12.

Last major action: 9/22/12 passed in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by unanimous consent.

17 May 2012: Expressing support for the International Olympic Committee to hold a minute of silence at the 2012 Olympics for the athletes killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics

H. Res. 663, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 48 cosponsors.

See also: similar measure S. Res. 504 of 6/25/12.

Last major action: 6/7/12 passed with amendment in Cmte. on Foreign Affairs by voice vote and reported for action by full House.

18 May 2012: Visa Waiver for Israel Act of 2012

H.R. 5850, Brad Sherman (D-CA), 34 cosponsors.

This bill would add Israel to the visa waiver program. Israelis would then be allowed to travel to the U.S. for short periods without a visa. Israel would be required to grant U.S. citizens the same privileges and share security information about those traveling to the U.S.

Israel's nonimmigrant refusal rate stands at 5.4%. The visa waiver program requires member states to have a rate of 3% or less. This bill waives that requirement for Israel.

Last major action: 6/5/12 referred to House subcmte.

24 May 2012: Dept. of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2013

S. 3241, Patrick Leahy (D-VT), no cosponsors.

This annual bill approves the budgets of the State Dept., Foreign Operations, and related programs. Along with the State and Foreign Operations Authorizations Act (H.R. 6018 of 6/26/12), it is the main tool used by Congress to influence foreign policy. Though the bill did not pass, it was the subject of foreign aid debates throughout 2012, and therefore gives a sense of

Congress's funding priorities in the second session.

For the most part, aid to Israel remains unchanged from previous years. There are many continuing programs for which the support is maintained and 1 new program, which was introduced this year in reaction to the dynamic political environment in the region.

Neither this bill, nor its companion (H.R. 5857), was brought to a vote, but the Senate and House Appropriations Cmtes. each passed a version. Funding totals listed below were identical in both bills unless otherwise noted.

The programs and subjects relevant to Israel, the Palestinians, and neighboring states are as follows:

Middle East and North Africa Incentive Fund

In the funding request for State and Foreign Operations for FY 2013, Pres. Obama requested \$1 b. for this new program set up in response to political turmoil in the Middle East, specifically to provide funds for supporting transition, political reform, and economic growth in the region. The House cmte. did not meet the request for this program, but instead appropriated \$175 m. for the **Middle East Response Fund** and added \$25 m. under the foreign military financing (FMF) section expressly to contribute to programs facilitating political transitions in the region. The Senate cmte. appropriated the full \$1 b. requested by the president for this program, designating \$70 m. for the **Middle East Partnership Initiative** (MEPI), which carries out programs in the West Bank and Gaza that create change and build capacity; \$15 m. of MEPI's funding would go toward scholarships for students at nonprofit universities.

Aid for Israel

A total of \$3.1 b. would be appropriated in FMF aid for Israel, an increase from \$3.075 b. in FY 2012, in keeping with a 2007 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the U.S. and Israel. The funds were to be made available to Israel less than 30 days after the appropriations bill was signed into law (in contrast to the minimum of 90 days for all other aid recipients). The House bill makes \$815.3 m. available for the

procurement in Israel of advanced weapons systems, including research and development. Both the House and Senate versions extend the loan guarantee program (which eventually passed in *H.R. 4133).

A total of \$374,000 would go to the Israeli Arab Scholarship Fund, which helps Israeli Arab students attend higher education institutions in the U.S.; \$15 m. was appropriated for refugee resettlement in Israel through the Migration and Refugee Assistance account.

Of the \$26 m. appropriated for reconciliation programs internationally, \$10 m. was directed to people-to-people programs in the Middle East meant to foster Arab and Israeli reconciliation.

Aid for the West Bank and Gaza

A total of \$370 m. would be appropriated for the PA, a decrease of \$15.7 m. relative to FY 2012. Of the \$370 m., \$150 m. would be direct budgetary assistance. The other \$220 m. disbursed through USAID—would be for governance (\$22.5 m.), health and education (\$88 m.), economic development (\$78.7 m.), and humanitarian assistance (\$30.8 m.).

Secy. of State Hillary Clinton stated that the purpose of this aid program was “to strengthen the Palestinian Authority and Palestinians as credible partners in Middle East peace while responding to humanitarian needs in Gaza. Assistance will provide significant resources to help build and maintain institutions and help support the economic development necessary for a future Palestinian state that can exist side-by-side with Israel in peace and security.” One administration official said of the reduction, “We think the economic situation is slightly better so we think we can do a little bit less.”

In addition to the decrease in overall economic support for the PA, the president and Congress withheld \$200 m. in already appropriated FY 2012 support and \$295.7 m. in additional FY 2013 support after Abbas’s 11/2011 UN bid. This money was not transferred to the PA until 3/2013, by which time the delay had already caused a massive crisis. The PA counts on foreign assistance for almost \$1.5 b. of its \$3.5 b. yearly budget.

Both the Senate and House Cmte. versions included multiple conditions. Fund transfers would be prohibited if, for example, the Palestinians obtained member state status at the UN (or any of its agencies) or if any aid was used toward paying salaries of PA officials residing in Gaza or belonging to Hamas. The PLO’s right to have an office in Washington would be revoked if the Palestinians obtained UN member state status or refused to enter into “direct and meaningful negotiations” with Israel; in the latter event, all aid transfers would be prohibited if the PA failed to make a “demonstrable commitment to peaceful coexistence with Israel” or to “take measures to combat terrorism.”

UNESCO

In the FY 2013 State and Foreign Operations budget proposal, Pres. Obama requested the reinstatement of U.S. support for UNESCO (\$880,000). He also requested the repeal of a provision barring the authorization of U.S. funds to the UN or any UN agency that accepts the PLO as a member. UNESCO funding was the subject of heated debates in the Senate and House Cmte. hearings, but neither agreed to repeal the prohibition on funds to UN bodies with PLO members. Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN) explained the refusal on the grounds that it would make clear to UNESCO, the UN, Israel, the PA, and the world that the U.S. “will not tolerate attempts to admit the Palestinian Authority and undercut efforts for a lasting peace in the Middle East.” No appropriations were therefore made to UNESCO.

UNRWA

The U.S. traditionally has been the largest single state donor to the UNRWA—the UN agency specifically tasked with providing relief and assistance to the 5 m. Palestinians registered as refugees in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza—with an average annual contribution of about \$200 m. since 2007 and \$233.3 m. in FY 2012. Contributions to the agency come from the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) accounts. To the former, \$2.3 b. is appropriated and to the latter, \$50 m. Levels of assistance to UNRWA from these accounts for

FY 2013 are expected to be similar to previous years.

A major controversy arose over an amendment, proposed by Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL) of the Senate Appropriations Cmte., that calls upon the secretary of state to submit a report to both chambers' Appropriations Cmtes. dividing all those currently receiving UNRWA services into 7 categories, which can be broadly summarized into persons alive during the Nakba and their descendents. The proposal originated with MK Einat Wilf (Atzmaut party), who held that the refugee problem could be solved if the sons and daughters of Palestinian refugees were no longer classified as refugees. Having been rebuffed by the Israeli Defense Ministry, she took the idea to AIPAC. With the approval of FM Avigdor Lieberman, Wilf and AIPAC lobbyists drafted a bill, which they distributed around congressional offices. Sen. Mark Kirk, a known supporter of Israel (he received \$414,000 in campaign contributions from pro-Israel PACs in 2008) and Appropriations Cmte. member, proposed it in the committee markup. The proposed amendment was sharply criticized by Dep. Secy. of State Tom Nides in a harshly worded letter to the chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcmte. on State and Foreign Operations, Patrick Leahy, who read the letter aloud to the subcommittee hearing on 5/24/12 and himself criticized the amendment for putting undue strain on the U.S. relationship with Jordan.

In the end, the Kirk amendment passed, though in a watered down version calling for the State Dept. to complete a report determining how many of the UNRWA-supported refugees could prove their displacement in wars past. The proposed report would still open the door for Congress to redefine "Palestinian refugee" in the future. Kirk, Wilf, and supporters of the amendment believe the total number of refugees under the new definition would be closer to 30,000, a figure that, they hope, would lead to the end of a need for UNRWA and more favorable negotiating conditions for Israel.

Aid to Egypt

A total of \$1.3 b. would be appropriated to Egypt in FMF with an

additional \$250 m. in economic support funds, accommodating the executive request. Both totals are consistent with FY 2012 levels of support. No less than \$35 m. of the ESF for Egypt is designated for education, including at least \$10 m. for scholarships for Egyptian students in need. In its report, the Senate Appropriations Cmte. noted "concern with discrimination and violence against women in Egypt" and supported funding for "women NGOs and initiatives to protect the rights of women and girls." The bill conditions all aid to Egypt on State Dept. certification that Egypt is in compliance with the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and that Egypt is transitioning to a free and fair civilian government with regular elections.

Aid to Jordan

A total of \$360 m. would be appropriated to Jordan in economic support funds in addition to \$300 m. in military support, matching the executive request. Additionally, the House cmte. designated that \$50 m. of the Middle East Response funds would go to Jordan.

Aid to Lebanon

A total of \$70 m would be appropriated to Lebanon, in line with the executive request. Additionally, \$12 m. would be appropriated for scholarships for high financial need Lebanese students wanting to go to university. The section on Lebanon includes a passage stating that no U.S. aid would go to the Lebanese armed forces if it "is controlled by a foreign terrorist organization."

The bill carries over these annual presidential authorities and funding restrictions:

American Schools and Hospitals

Abroad (ASHA) Program: The Senate cmte. recommended \$23 m. for this program. In the past it has provided support funds for the construction of schools and hospitals in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Middle East Regional Cooperation

Program (MERC): \$5 m. would be appropriated for MERC, an organization founded in 1979 to promote collaboration between Israeli, American, and Egyptian scientists. In 1989, the mission

was expanded to include scientists from other states in the Middle East.

Middle East Response Fund: The House Cmte. agreed on \$175 m. for the Middle East Response Fund, of which \$70 m. would be directed to MEPI, \$5 m. to USAID's Office of Middle East Partnerships, and not less than \$50 m. to Jordan.

International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA): The bill states that funds are available unless the secretary of state determines that Israel is "is being denied its right to participate in the activities of that Agency." Exact totals were not agreed upon.

Prohibition on Taxation of U.S.

Assistance: An amount equal to 200% of any taxes assessed on any appropriation listed in this act are to be withheld from the FY 2014 aid package to any country collecting such a tax. This provision specifically mentions the West Bank and Gaza.

Budget battles continued through the year until *H.J. Res. 117 was passed (9/10/12), extending the FY 2012 budget through 3/27/2013. The full FY 2013 State Dept. and Foreign Operations budget was not settled until the passage of *H.R. 933 in 3/2013.

See also: companion measure H.R. 5857 of 5/25/12, *H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11 (for FY 2012 budget), and *H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12.

Last major action: 05/24/2012 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

24 May 2012: Reaffirming the vital international interest in preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability

S. J. Res. 41, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 83 cosponsors.

This measure states that the U.S. has a vital interest in preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. It cites statements by Iranian leaders pledging to wipe Israel off the map and IAEA documents, which are used to prove that those same leaders are pursuing a nuclear weapons program.

This resolution was a major focus for AIPAC lobbyists. On 9/23/12, after the Senate passed the measure, AIPAC put out a press release stating that "AIPAC applauds the Senate for rejecting a policy of containment of an Iranian nuclear weapons capability and calling for an

increase in sanctions against the world's leading state sponsor of terror." In contrast, the lobbying group J Street put out (5/1/12) a policy paper on the subject that stated, "While reports of progress in Iranian nuclear weapons programs are . . . deeply troubling, . . . American policy going forward should use stronger sanctions and continued diplomacy to pose a stark choice for the Iranian Government. It can continue on its present path and face ever deeper international isolation or change its behavior, in particular by fulfilling its obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty."

Following this bill's introduction, 44 senators signed a letter to Pres. Obama allowing that "the window for diplomacy is closing" and that he should make clear his willingness to choose a "credible military option."

See also: identical measures S.A. 2346 to S. 3240 of 5/24/12 and S.A. 2365 to S. 3414 of 7/19/12, and similar measures S. Res. 380 of 2/16/12 and H. Res. 568 of 3/1/12 for more on Iran's nuclear weapons capability.

Last major action: 9/25/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs (9/21/12 passed in Senate 90-1).

24 May 2012: Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012

S. 3240, Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), no cosponsors.

This bill itself is not directly relevant to Israel and the Palestinians. It is, however, one of the most significant reforms in agricultural policy in decades. There was 1 amendment proposed on the floor of the Senate that is relevant:

S.A. 2346, introduced on 6/20/12 by Lindsey Graham (R-SC), no cosponsors.

The amendment was not considered. Its language is identical to **S. J. Res 41 of 5/24/12**, which would change U.S. policy on Iran.

See also: S. Res. 380 of 2/16/12, H. Res. 568 of 3/1/12, and S. J. Res. 41 of 5/24/12.

Last major action: 6/26/12 held at House desk (6/21/12 passed in Senate 64-35).

25 May 2012: Dept. of Defense Appropriations Act, 2013

H.R. 5856, C. W. Bill Young (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This annual piece of legislation approves funding of the Dept. of Defense. It passed in the House with \$519.2 b. of appropriations for the Defense Dept.'s discretionary budget but did not pass the Senate. Had it become law, it would have represented an increase of \$1.1 b. over FY 2012 funding for the Defense Dept. and \$3.1 b. over what the president requested for FY 2013.

Concerning the Middle East, the executive request for FY 2013 Defense Dept. funding states that "U.S. policy will emphasize gulf security to prevent Iran's development of a nuclear weapon capability and counter its destabilizing policies. The United States will do this while standing up to Israel's security and a comprehensive Middle East peace."

Despite overall cuts in defense spending, the bill maintains substantial aid to Israel's missile defense programs, and includes a new provision for missile defense production and research to be performed in the U.S.

The military aid to Israel appropriated in this bill is channeled through Israeli Cooperative Programs and is focused on missile defense programs. A total of \$948.736 m. is provided for all Israeli Cooperative Programs. Of that total, \$680 m. is for the procurement of the Iron Dome defense system, \$149.679 m. for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense program (including \$39.2 m. for production activities of SRBMD missiles in the U.S. and in Israel), \$74.692 m. for an upper-tier component to the Israeli Missile Defense Architecture, and \$44.365 m. for the Arrow System Improvement Program. The bill would also guarantee \$680 m. for the Iron Dome in each fiscal year from 2013 to 2015.

The Senate modified the bill to appropriate \$211 m. for the Iron Dome and removed the guarantee of future appropriations. A reconciliation cmte. was never formed to work out these differences, and the FY 2013 budget was eventually passed in a continuing resolution (*H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12).

There was 1 relevant amendment to this bill:

*H.A. 1418, introduced on 7/19/12 by Rep. Paul A. Gosar (R-AZ), no cosponsors.

This amendment would prohibit the use of funds to be obligated or expended for assistance for the government of Iran, the government of Syria, Hamas, Hizballah, and the Muslim Brotherhood. It was agreed to by voice vote on 7/19/12.

See also: H.R. 1 of 2/11/11, H.R. 1473 of 4/11/11, H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11, H.R. 2219 of 6/16/11, and H.R. 3671 of 12/14/11.

Last major action: 8/2/12 placed on Senate legislative calendar (7/19/12 passed in House 326-90).

25 May 2012: Dept. of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 2013

H.R. 5857, Kay Granger (R-TX), no cosponsors.

A summary of this bill is available under S. 3241 of 5/24/12.

See also: companion measure S. 3241 of 5/24/12, *H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11 (last year's version of same), and *H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12 (a continuing resolution which was passed instead of H.R. 5857).

Last major action: 5/25/12 placed on Union calendar for action by the full House.

*4 June 2012: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), FY 2013

S. 3254, Carl Levin (D-MI), no cosponsors.

A summary of the final version of this bill, which was signed into law on 12/4/12, can be found under H.R. 4310 of 3/29/12.

Six relevant amendments to this bill were introduced in the Senate, including 3 in anticipation of the 11/30 UNGA vote upgrading the status of the PLO mission to that of a nonmember observer state:

S.A. 3139, introduced on 11/28/12 by John Barrasso (R-WY), 2 cosponsors.

This amendment would require the president to reduce U.S. assistance to the PA by 50% if the PA seeks to change its status at the UN at any time after 11/25/12. It would also require the president to reduce U.S. contributions by 50% to any UN entity that changes the status of the Palestinian mission after 11/25/12. These funding cuts would continue until final status issues are resolved.

Finally, the president would be required to reduce by 20% U.S. assistance

to any country that votes to grant a Palestinian entity status as a UN member state, a nonmember state, or any other status that interferes with the resolution of the final status issues between Israel and the PA. This funding cut would continue until the country votes to revert the status of the PA, or until the president waives the requirement in the interest of U.S. national security. This amendment was not considered by the Senate.

S.A. 3061, introduced on 11/28/12 by Patrick Toomey (R-PA), no cosponsors.

This amendment would prohibit the U.S. from participating in military exercises with Egypt if it fails to meet its obligations under the 1979 peace treaty with Israel. It was not considered by the Senate.

S.A. 3171, introduced on 11/28/12 by Orrin Hatch (R-UT), 9 cosponsors.

This amendment would cut off all U.S. funding for the UN if the Security Council or General Assembly grants a change of status to the Palestinian mission to the UN. U.S. funding would be restored only if the secretary of state certifies to Congress that a comprehensive peace agreement has been reached with Israel. This amendment was ordered to lie on the table and was not considered by the Senate.

*S.A. 3172, introduced on 11/28/12 by Bob Corker (R-TN), no cosponsors.

This amendment would require the president to submit a report to Congress on all known Syrian opposition groups, including an assessment of their relationships with Hizballah and Hamas. It passed by unanimous consent on 12/3/12.

S.A. 3203, introduced on 11/29/12 by Lindsay Graham (R-SC), 4 cosponsors.

This amendment would require the president to terminate all assistance to the PA if the International Criminal Court adjudicates any matter proposed or supported by the PA or any other organization purporting to represent the Palestinian people. It would also prohibit the PLO from maintaining a presence in the U.S. unless the president reports to Congress that the Palestinians have entered into meaningful negotiations

with Israel. It was not considered by the Senate.

*S.A. 3220, introduced on 11/29/12 by Roger Wicker (R-MS), 2 cosponsors.

This amendment would state the sense of Congress that it desires to assist Israel in acquiring additional Iron Dome anti-missile batteries and urges the Depts. of State and Defense to alert Congress of any needs the IDF may have for additional equipment depleted during Operation Pillar of Defense. It passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on 11/29/12.

See also: H.R. 4310 of 3/29/12.

Last major action: 12/4/12 passed in Senate 98–0.

5 June 2012: Supporting Cyprus's efforts to control all of its territory and exploit its resources without Turkish interference

H. Res. 676, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 20 cosponsors.

The resolution would call on the president to respect the sovereignty of Cyprus and the agreement between Israel and Turkey over the demarcation of their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). It also urges the administration to call on Turkey to “end its illegal colonization of Cyprus.”

This resolution is relevant because it notes that Turkey's motivation for moving settlers to n. Cyprus is probably to build a case for the expansion of Turkey's EEZ in the Eastern Mediterranean. Shortly before this resolution's introduction, Turkey and Israel had signed an agreement to respect each other's EEZs. The specific boundaries of their EEZs are important because of the recent discoveries of major natural gas deposits in the area and the fact that the U.S. was developing hydrocarbon deposits in the offshore EEZs of Cyprus and Israel.

See also: similar measure S. Con. Res. 47 of 6/6/12.

Last major action: 6/5/12 referred to House cmte.

6 June 2012: Respecting the sovereignty of Cyprus over its territory

S. Con. Res. 47, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 3 cosponsors.

See similar legislation H. Res 676 of 6/5/12 for a full summary.

Last major action: 6/6/12 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

***25 June 2012: Expressing support for the International Olympic Committee to hold a minute of silence at the 2012 Olympics for the athletes killed at the 1972 Munich Olympics**

S. Res. 504, Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), 33 cosponsors.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 663 of 5/17/12.

Last major action: 6/25/12 passed in Senate without amendment by unanimous consent.

26 June 2012: Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY 2013

H.R. 6018, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This annual bill provides legal authority for new and existing programs carried out by the State Dept. and USAID, the funds for which are appropriated in the annual State Dept. and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (S. 3241 of 5/24/12).

The section of the bill directly relevant to Israel authorizes the president to “establish special licensing procedures” to sell items not designated as “major defense equipment or significant military equipment” to major U.S. allies, including Israel.

Iran and Syria are also mentioned in the bill. They are among a handful of states that are not permitted destinations for the export of commercial satellites or other related technology.

Since 2002, no Foreign Relations Authorizations Acts have been passed in Congress, let alone signed into law. This bill passed in the House with bipartisan support (7/17/12) after 40 minutes of debate, the tone of which was conciliatory. -Former chairman of the House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs Howard Berman summed up the consensus in his statement on the floor of the House, “On balance, I do support this bill. It’s not perfect. The authorization numbers are well below the FY13 requested levels, lower than what I think is needed to exert strong and effective global leadership, and in a perfect world, I would have preferred a more comprehensive bill that authorizes the full range of our global activities.” Throughout the floor remarks, there was a sense of resignation

about the bill’s prospects; also notable was the lack of any discussion about Israeli security.

See also: S. 3241 of 5/24/12, H.R. 5857 of 5/25/12, and H.R. 4310 of 3/29/12.

Last major action: 7/18/12 referred to Senate cmte. (7/17/12 passed in House 333–61).

28 June 2012: Responding to Urgent Needs of Survivors of the Holocaust (RUSH) Act

S. 3358, Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would require state agencies receiving federal grants for senior citizens’ services to include Holocaust survivors among the vulnerable groups receiving preferential treatment.

Last major action: 6/28/12 referred to Senate Cmte. on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

29 June 2012: Western Hemisphere Security Cooperation Act of 2012

H.R. 6067, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 13 cosponsors.

This bill outlines new policies regarding international drug trafficking, global counterterrorism initiatives, and new conditions to improve nonproliferation promotion. Most of the act’s provisions are directed at activities based in Cuba or Venezuela.

This bill would create the policy of deterrence toward any state in the Western Hemisphere providing Iran or its proxies the resources to produce nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. It would also create a new policy to prevent Iran or Hizballah from engaging in activities that threaten U.S. national security, interests, and allies in the Western Hemisphere.

See also: H.R. 3783 of 1/18/12.

Last major action: 7/19/12 referred to House subcmte.

29 June 2012: Urging restitution of or compensation for property seized during the Nazi and Communist eras

S. Res. 516, Bill Nelson (D-FL), 2 cosponsors.

This resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that some European countries (specifically Poland, Romania, Latvia, Slovenia, Croatia) have not properly provided compensation for property lost in the Holocaust. It notes that the U.S. has

a history of just legislation to provide restitution, or fair compensation, and expresses a will to continue to do so.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 766 of 8/2/12.

Last major action: 9/19/12 placed on Senate legislative calendar under general orders calendar no. 527.

19 July 2012: Cybersecurity Act of 2012

S. 3414, Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would establish a National Cybersecurity Council to coordinate affairs relating to cyber infrastructure and defense. The bill itself is not directly relevant to the topics covered in the monitor. But there was 1 amendment relevant to Iran, though it was only proposed as a delay tactic by Senate Republicans.

S.A. 2365, introduced on 7/25/12 by Lindsey Graham (R-SC), no cosponsors.

This amendment would insert the text of **S. J. Res. 41 of 5/24/12**. It was not considered by the Senate.

See also: S. J. Res. 41 of 5/24/12, S. Res. 380 of 2/16/12, H. Res. 568 of 3/1/12, and S.A. 2346 to S. 3240 of 5/24/12.

Last major action: 8/2/12 filibustered in Senate (vote to invoke cloture and end filibuster failed 52–46 [60 votes required]).

***19 July 2012: Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012**

H.R. 6156, Dave Camp (R-MI), 14 cosponsors.

This bill would release Russia and Moldova from the provisions of the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which had placed trade restrictions on the Soviet Union as a punishment for its limitations on Jewish emigration. The bill also imposes new sanctions on individuals in Russia who commit human rights abuses.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (CPMAJO) originally helped draft and lobby for the 1974 amendment to pressure the Soviet Union to allow Jewish emigration, primarily, at Israel's request, away from the U.S. and to Israel. The flow of Jewish emigration was carefully controlled and channeled toward Israel,

where new citizens were populating the occupied Palestinian territories.

After the U.S.S.R. eased restrictions on emigration and Jewish life and improved diplomatic relations with Israel, the NCSJ and CPMAJO led a coalition of 8 Jewish organizations in lobbying to free Russia from the Jackson-Vanik restrictions. Together they sent a letter to members of Congress urging passage of this bill. Reportedly, signatories of the letter included AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Federations of North America, B'nai B'rith International, and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. That letter was seen as key to advancing the legislation.

See also: companion measure S. 3406 of 7/19/12

Last major action: 12/14/12 signed by president and became public law 112-208 (12/6/12 passed in Senate 92–4; 11/16/12 passed in House 365–43).

19 July 2012: Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012

S. 3406, Max Baucus (D-MT), no cosponsors.

See companion measure H.R. 6156 of 7/19/12 for a full summary of this bill and further action.

Last major action: 12/6/12 passed in Senate 92–4.

31 July 2012: To direct the president to submit to Congress a report on actions the executive branch has taken relating to the resolution of the issue of Jewish refugees from Arab countries

H.R. 6242, Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), 10 cosponsors.

This bill would require the president to report every 2 yrs. to Congress the actions he has taken to promote the rights of Jewish refugees who escaped from Arab countries. The report outlined here would also be required to describe the issue in the context of the Arab/Israeli conflict.

Last major action: 7/31/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***1 August 2012: Providing for the passage of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012**

H. Res. 750, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This resolution was drafted during informal negotiations between Rep. Ros-Lehtinen and Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD), who were the principal authors of competing Iran sanctions bills in the House and Senate. Their compromises on sanctions in the negotiations over this measure were passed in the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (*H.R. 1905 of 5/13/11). The resolution also contains a special provision stating that the House considers *H.R. 1905 to have been passed and its text replaced with that of Ros-Lehtinen and Johnson's compromise bill. In effect, a vote for this resolution was also a vote for the final version of *H.R. 1905.

See also: *H.R. 1905 of 5/13/11.

Last major action: 8/1/12 passed in House 421–6.

2 August 2012: Urging restitution of or compensation for property seized during the Holocaust

H. Res. 766, Ted Deutch (D-FL), no cosponsors.

See similar measure S. Res. 516 of 6/29/12 for a full summary of this bill.

Last major action: 8/2/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

2 August 2012: Stating that Pres. Obama should seek congressional authorization before any military intervention in Syria

H. Res. 770, Stevan Pearce (R-NM), no cosponsors.

Last major action: 8/2/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***10 September 2012: Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2013**

H. J. Res. 117, Harold Rogers (R-KY), no cosponsors.

Because a new budget for FY 2013 had not yet been passed, passage of a continuing appropriations bill was necessary to fund the government past the end of the current fiscal year. This resolution provided that funding, but only for select programs and only for 6 months (through 3/27/13). In doing so, it temporarily averted a budget sequestration, devised as a fail-safe cooperation incentive and passed in the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA).

The only programs, activities, and equipment that can be funded were

those covered by the FY 2012 budget. For example, USAID cannot fund any new water or education programs in Gaza or the West Bank because they were not included in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill last year.

This measure upholds the funding levels that were passed in the Dept. of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (division I of *H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11), the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2012 (division A of *H.R. 2055), and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (division H of *H.R. 2055). Each of these acts was passed as a part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act for FY 2012 (*H.R. 2055). Together these bills appropriated aid and military support to Israel, the PA, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, USAID, UN agencies, and most other relevant U.S. mechanisms for dealing with the Middle East and the world in general. Those programs were each appropriated according to the funding levels originally approved, but with a 0.612% increase (see CongressionalMonitor.org for more).

This continuing resolution was passed on the last day Congress was in session before the November election recess. The debate over this bill was characterized by frustration on both sides of the aisle. Rep. Rob Woodall (R-GA) of the Rules Cmte. summed up the situation in his remarks on the floor of the House (9/13/12) when he said, "We went right into continuing resolution act to continuing resolution act to continuing resolution act—sometimes 2 and 3 weeks at a time. That's no way to run a government. It's no way to have a Congress."

One relevant amendment was proposed to alter the FY 2012 spending levels in this extension:

S.A. 2841, introduced on 9/19/12 by Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This amendment would prohibit U.S. assistance to Egypt, Libya, Pakistan, or any other country in which the U.S. embassy is attacked. Sen. Rand Paul also stalled the vote on H. J. Res. 117 (9/10/12) with a filibuster, but cloture was invoked. This amendment was not considered by the Senate.

See also: *H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11, and S. 3576 of 9/19/12.

Last major action: 9/28/12 became public law 112-175 (9/22/12 passed in the Senate 62–30; 9/13/12 passed in the House 329–91).

12 September 2012: War Crimes Accountability Act of 2012

H.R. 6382, Steve Israel (D-NY), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would require the U.S. attorney general to consider a government's record with regard to extraditing or prosecuting Nazi war crimes suspects when evaluating its application for participation in the U.S. visa waiver program, which permits nationals of given countries to travel to the U.S. for short stays without obtaining a visa.

Last major action: 9/12/12 referred to the House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

19 September 2012: Older Americans Act amendments of 2012

S. 3562, Bernard Sanders (I-VT), 18 cosponsors.

This bill would, inter alia, require state agencies receiving federal grants for elder services to include Holocaust survivors among the vulnerable groups receiving preferential treatment.

See also: similar measure S. 3358 of 6/28/12.

Last major action: 9/19/12 referred to Senate cmte.

19 September 2012: Prohibiting assistance to Egypt, Pakistan, and Libya

S. 3576, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit U.S. assistance to Egypt, Pakistan, Libya, and any country in which the U.S. embassy is attacked, trespassed upon, breached, or targeted for attack. It was introduced the week after the 9/11/12 attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, where 4 Americans were killed.

Sen. Paul had proposed similar measures as amendments to both the Continuing Appropriations Res. (*H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12) and S. J. Res. 41 of 5/24/12, before Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) allowed this bill to be brought before the Senate for a vote.

AIPAC, which supports a broad U.S. foreign assistance program, wrote a letter

to Sen. Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) urging them to oppose this measure on the grounds that it would reduce U.S. influence over events in the Middle East and could potentially prohibit aid to Israel.

See also: identical measure S.A. 2841 of 9/19/12 and companion measure H.R. 6452 of 9/30/12.

Last major action: 9/22/12 defeated in the Senate 10–81.

19 September 2012: Supporting the designation of August 23rd as Black Ribbon Day, recognizing victims of Soviet and Nazi regimes

H. Res. 790, Dan Lungren (R-CA), 3 cosponsors.

Last major action: 9/19/12 referred to House Cmte. on Oversight and Government Reform.

20 September 2012: Prohibiting assistance to Egypt, Pakistan, and Libya

H.R. 6452, Jeffrey Landry (R-LA), 5 cosponsors.

See S. 3576 of 9/19/12 for a full summary.

See also: S.A. 2841 to H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12.

Last major action: 9/20/12 referred to House cmte.

20 September 2012: Calling on the UN to take action against Iranian leaders for calling for the destruction of Israel

S. Res. 574, Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), 25 cosponsors.

In addition to condemning Ayatollah Khomeini and Pres. Mahmoud Ahmadi-nejad for their threats to “wipe Israel off the map,” this resolution calls for fellow UN member states to do the same, for the UNSC to fully implement sanctions on Iran, and for UN member states to consider new and harsher sanctions. It also reaffirms the relationship between the U.S. and Israel.

AIPAC identified this resolution as one of its legislative priorities. It was introduced 6 days before opening session of the UNGA on 9/26, when Pres. Ahmadi-nejad was scheduled to speak.

See also: H. Con. Res. 139 of 9/21/12 and H. Res. 807 of 10/26/12.

Last major action: 9/20/12 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

21 September 2012: Condemning Iranian pres. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for addressing the UN on Yom Kippur

H. Con. Res. 139, Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA), 14 cosponsors.

The UN had scheduled Pres. Ahmadinejad's speech on the same day as Yom Kippur coincidentally.

See also: H. Res. 807 of 10/26/12 and S. Res. 574 of 9/20/12.

Last major action: 9/21/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

26 October 2012: Calling for the arrest and prosecution of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for incitement to genocide

H. Res. 807, Steve Israel (D-NY), no cosponsors.

See also: H. Con. Res. 139 of 9/21/12 and S. Res. 574 of 9/20/12.

Last major action: 10/26/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs

***15 November 2012: Expressing unwavering commitment to Israel's security and supporting its right to self-defense during Operation Pillar of Defense**

S. Res. 599, Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), 66 cosponsors.

This resolution states that Hamas must cease its rocket fire, urges the UN to condemn the spike in rocket fire, and encourages the president to continue diplomatic efforts to prevent Hamas from rebuilding capability to launch rockets against Israel. It also expresses the continued "unwavering" support for Israel's right to defend itself and urges the UN to condemn "the recent Gaza-linked terrorist missile attacks" against Israel.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 813 of 11/16/12.

Last major action: 11/15/12 passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

15 November 2012: Commending the Albanian people for protecting the lives of Jews during the Holocaust on the 100th anniversary of their independence from the Ottoman Empire

H. Res. 812, Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), 1 cosponsor.

The resolution also commends Yad Vashem, Israel's official memorial to Jewish victims of the Holocaust, for recognizing Albanians who protected Jews during the Holocaust.

See also: similar measure S. Res. 601 of 11/27/12.

Last major action: 11/15/12 referred to House Cmte on Foreign Affairs.

***16 November 2012: Expressing unwavering commitment to Israel's security and supporting its right to self-defense during Operation Pillar of Defense**

H. Res. 813, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

See similar measure S. Res. 599 of 11/15/12 for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/16/12 passed in House without objection.

16 November 2012: Stating that the president should not sign the UN Arms Treaty

H. Res. 814, Mike Kelly (R-PA), 89 cosponsors.

This resolution states that the UN Arms Treaty may prevent the U.S. from fulfilling its commitment to provide arms to Israel.

Last major action: 11/16/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

27 November 2012: Commending the Albanian people on the 100th anniversary of the declaration of their independence from the Turkish Ottoman Empire on 28 November 1912, and for protecting the lives of Jews during the Holocaust

S. Res. 601, Charles Schumer (D-NY), no cosponsors.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 812 of 11/15/12.

Last major action: 11/27/12 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

11 December 2012: Global Partnerships Act of 2012

H.R. 6644, Howard Berman (D-CA), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would establish a framework for effective, transparent, and accountable U.S. foreign assistance. It overhauls the foreign aid system as it existed since the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 established modern parameters.

The bill lists several new priorities in the Middle East, including violence against women and girls, and promoting the rule of law and child protection. This bill does not change the status quo with

regard to U.S. military and economic support for Israel, Palestine, and other countries in the region.

The bill died in committee before any of the specific provisions could be debated.

Last major action: 12/11/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs

11 December 2012: Prohibiting U.S. assistance to Egypt

H.R. 6646, Vern Buchanan (R-FL), 18 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit any appropriations to Egypt after FY 2012 from any federal department or agency.

On 12/10/12, Rep. Buchanan sent a letter to every member of the House urging them to support this bill. In the letter, Buchanan raised serious concerns about whether Egypt would recognize its 1979 peace treaty with Israel and asserted that U.S. assistance to Egypt should end because Egypt had sided with Hamas during Operation Pillar of Defense.

Last major action: 12/11/12 referred to House cmte.

11 December 2012: Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2012

H.R. 6649, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would authorize the president to provide U.S. warships to Turkey, among other countries. The Dept. of Defense had specifically requested Turkey be a recipient of frigate-class warships—like the one designated in this bill—to bolster its fight against international piracy.

Several representatives objected to the bill because of Turkey's deteriorating relationship with Israel in the aftermath of the 2010 *Mavi Marmara* incident.

Last major action: 1/1/13 received in Senate (12/31/12 passed in House by voice vote).

***11 December 2012: Urging European governments and the EU to designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization**

S. Res. 613, Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), 65 cosponsors.

AIPAC listed this resolution as one of its legislative priorities. The group also supported a 9/14 letter signed by 76 senators, including Lieberman, to EU High Rep. for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton urging her to

designate Hizballah a terrorist organization. J Street and the American Jewish Committee, which had long been involved in efforts to get the EU to blacklist Hizballah, also lobbied for the measure.

See also: similar measure H. Res. 834 of 12/17/12.

Last major action: 12/21/12 passed in Senate by voice vote.

12 December 2012: Conditioning U.S.-Egypt Military Exercises Act of 2012

S. 3670, Patrick Toomey (R-PA), no cosponsors.

This bill would terminate all military and economic support funding of U.S.-Egyptian joint military exercises if the government of Egypt withdraws from the 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

See also: similar measure H.R. 6646 of 12/11/12, H.R. 5857 of 5/25/12, S. 3241 of 5/24/12, *H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12

Last major action: 12/12/12 referred to Senate Cmte. on Armed Services.

13 December 2012: Egypt Accountability and Democracy Promotion Act

H.R. 6657, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This bill would condition all foreign military financing to Egypt on a certification from the secretary of state that the government of Egypt is not controlled by or under the influence of a foreign terrorist organization. It also requires certification that Egypt is initiating reforms to secure the political, economic, and human rights of the Egyptian people. The final certification required to allow for the transfer of military support funds is that Egypt is upholding the 1979 treaty with Israel and taking "concrete, viable" steps to crack down on the smuggling network along the border with Gaza.

Last major action: 12/13/12 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***17 December 2012: Urging European governments and the EU to designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization**

H. Res. 834, Mike Kelly (R-PA), 85 cosponsors.

For a summary of H. Res. 834, see similar measure S. Res. 613 of 12/11/12.

Last major action: 1/1/13 passed in House by voice vote.