CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR


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With this issue, JPS inaugurates a new section that will monitor U.S. congressional initiatives dealing with Palestine and Israel. Substantively, the initiatives—listed chronologically—include all relevant acts, bills, appropriations, and resolutions (joint, concurrent, and simple) that mention, even briefly, either Palestine or Israel. Speeches are not included. Space considerations have prevented more than a very brief description of each initiative, along with essential details such as bill number, date introduced, name of sponsor and number of cosponsors, votes cast, last action taken, and companion measures. The format is designed to give the reader an overview of legislation that relates to the Palestine issue and to help identify the major themes of legislation, its initiators, their priorities, the range of their concerns, and their attitudes toward the regional actors. While this first monitor covers two years—both annual sessions of the 109th Congress—each new Congress will be treated by annual session. Material in this compilation is drawn from thomas.loc.gov.

This is part of a larger IPS project to cover the current 110th Congress, subsequent congresses, and previous congresses dating back to the start of the second Bush administration and beyond, while simultaneously monitoring ongoing and past executive policy statements on the same topics. The expectation is that cumulative congressional data, when compared and/or contrasted to parallel executive data, could generate new insights into the process of and the influences upon U.S. foreign policymaking with respect to one of the most central and volatile conflicts of modern times.

THE 109TH CONGRESS

Throughout the two years that the 109th Congress was in session—from 3 January 2005 to 3 January 2007—Republicans controlled both the Senate and the House of Representatives; the Democratic majority elected to both chambers in the November 2006 elections was not sworn in until the opening of the 110th Congress in January 2007.

Several landmark events in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories occurred during the two-year period under review. As the 109th Congress opened in January 2005, Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority (PA), succeeding Yassir Arafat, who had died in November 2004. A year later, coinciding with the opening of the second session of the 109th Congress, Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon suffered a stroke and fell into a coma, removing him from public life; Ehud Olmert, who immediately assumed control, was formally elected prime minister in March 2006. Meanwhile, Hamas, which had chalked up victories throughout municipal elections in Gaza and the West Bank in the second half of 2005, unexpectedly won the Palestinian parliamentary elections on 25 January 2006, ending Fatah’s control of the PA and its unquestioned 40-year dominance of the Palestinian national movement. The year also saw Israel’s devastating summer war on Lebanon and growing U.S.-Israeli concerns over Iran. Many of these events are referenced in the congressional initiatives. Sharon’s passage from the scene was marked by a tribute to the Israeli Arab nurse who treated him at Hadassah hospital in a House speech on 16 July 2006. Reflecting events on the ground more generally, there was a marked upsurge in anti-PA initiatives following the formation of the Hamas government in March 2006, though it should be noted that efforts to block aid to the PA preceded this event by eleven months: On 8 March 2005, when Abbas and Fatah were still firmly in control, the House introduced a bill calling for the prohibition of U.S. aid to the PA and of programs in the territories unless, inter alia, there was an “absence of violence” there. Immediately following the Hamas electoral victory, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act (PATA; see excerpts in Doc.
D3 in JPS 143) was introduced (1 February 2006 in the House; 6 March 2006 in the Senate), which required, among other things, that PA territory be designated a “terrorist sanctuary” unless Hamas adhered to nine conditions (see PATA 3/6/06).

Overall, however, one is struck by a certain disconnect between specific events on the ground and the concerns of Congress, with large numbers of initiatives taken up with such items as commemorating Israeli anniversaries, intervening on Israel’s behalf with various non-U.S. bodies (e.g., United Nations, NATO, International Committee of the Red Cross, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development), supporting Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, and promoting Holocaust awareness.

Key:
Con. Res. ——— Concurrent Resolution
H. R. ———— House Bill
Res. ———— Simple Resolution
S. ————– Senate Bill
S./H.J. Res. — — – Joint Resolution
Voice vote: vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded

To reduce space, some bill descriptions have been omitted where the bill text is similar or identical to that of another bill mentioned in this monitor. In these cases, the related measure containing the description is listed in boldface.

First Session (2005)

6 January 2005: Support for Israel joining the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
H. Res. 38, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 41 cosponsors at time of passage.
Last major action: 11/8/05 passed in House 391–0.

26 January 2005: Urging UN to address anti-Semitism in the United Nations
H. Res. 54, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 32 cosponsors as of 4/19/05.
Calls on UNESCO to develop and implement Holocaust education globally; calls on U.S. president to direct UN representative to work toward reducing anti-Semitic language and anti-Israel resolutions in UN; calls on the U.S. secy. of state to include in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices a section on compliance by the UN and its constituent bodies with international human rights treaties and norms related to anti-Semitism and to expend funds to establish education programs for Arabs and Muslims on the issue.

Related measures: H. Res. 282 of 5/17/05; S. Res. 184 6/29/05; S. Res. 240 on 9/15/05.
Last major action: 3/17/05 referred to committee.

1 February 2005: Praising PA presidential elections won by Mahmud Abbas
H. Res. 56, Roy Blunt (R-MO), 3 cosponsors.

Related measures: S. Res. 27 2/1/05.

Last major action: 2/2/05 passed in House 415–1.

1 February 2005: Praising PA presidential elections, recognizing victory of Mahmud Abbas
S. Res. 27, Bill Frist (R-TN), 8 cosponsors.
Also commends Israel for facilitating the elections and calls on Arab governments to recognize Israel.

Related measures: H. Res. 56 2/1/05.

Last major action: 2/1/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

2 February 2005: Supporting Jerusalem as the capital of Israel
H. R. 588, Thomas Reynolds (R-NY), 42 cosponsors as of 9/8/05.
Calls for cutting back services of U.S. consulate in Jerusalem, referring to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in all official documents, and listing “Israel” as the birthplace of those born in Jerusalem.

Last major action: 3/17/05 referred to subcommittee.

15 February 2005: Encouraging EU to put Hizballah on its list of terrorist organizations
H. Res. 101, James Saxton (R-NJ), 75 cosponsors at time of passage.
Also calls for Hizballah to stop supporting “Palestinian terrorist organizations” such as al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas; and for the dismantlement of Hizballah according to UNSC Res. 1559.

Related measures: S. Res. 82 3/15/05.

Last major action: 3/14/05 passed in House 380–3, 5 present.

8 March 2005: Prohibiting [U.S.] aid to the PA in the West Bank and Gaza until certain conditions are met
H. R. 1143, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), 9 cosponsors as of 2/7/06.
Conditions cited include that the PA be untainted by violence; that terrorist...
infrastructure be dismantled; that there be no violence in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip; and that the PA publicly rebuke terrorism.

**Last major action:** 3/17/05 referred to subcommittee.

10 March 2005: Recognizing the expansion of Israel’s national museum, Yad Vashem

S. Res. 79, Jon Corzine (D-NJ), 1 original cosponsor.

“Expressing the sense of the Senate in marking the dedication on 15 March 2005 of the expanded museum complex at Yad Vashem.”

**Last major action:** 3/10/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.


H. R. 1268, Jerry Lewis (R-CA), no cosponsors.

Provides $200 m. to support the Palestinians, of which $50 m. is for assistance to Israel “to help ease the movement of Palestinian people and goods in and out of Israel” and $5 m. is for an outside, independent audit of PA expenditures to determine the extent of transparency and accountability in PA finances, leaving $145 m. for Palestinians.

**Related measures:** H. R. 4939 on 3/13/06 for supplemental appropriations FY2006.

**Last major action:** 5/11/05 became Public Law No. 109–13.

15 March 2005: Urging EU to put Hizballah on list of terror organizations

S. Res. 82, George Allen (R-VA), 15 cosponsors at time of passage.

**Related measures:** H. Res. 101 2/15/05.

**Last major action:** 4/29/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

17 March 2005: Designating week of 1 May 2005 as Holocaust Awareness Week

S. Res. 90, Richard Lugar (R-IN), 3 original cosponsors.

**Last major action:** 3/17/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

14 April 2005: Moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem 180 days prior to recognizing a Palestinian state

S./H.J. Res. 14, Samuel Brownback (R-KS), 5 cosponsors as of 9/11/06.

“The United States shall not recognize a Palestinian state until the international community resolves the status of Jerusalem by recognizing the city as the undivided capital of Israel.”

**Last major action:** 4/19/05 referred to committee.

28 April 2005: Outlawing PLO offices in the U.S.

H. R. 2036, Anthony Weiner (D-NY), 3 cosponsors as of 5/23/05.

Aims to downgrade PLO or PA office in the U.S. to the status of information office, as existed prior to the Oslo Accord.

**Last major action:** 5/17/05 referred to subcommittee.

4 May 2005: Condemning attacks on U.S. citizens by Palestinian terrorists

H. Con. Res. 144, Steve King (R-IA), 72 cosponsors as of 9/21/05.

**Last major action:** 5/17/05 referred to subcommittee.

5 May 2005: Conferring honorary U.S. citizenship on Anne Frank

S./H.J. Res. 48, Steve Israel (D-NY), 30 original cosponsors.

Grants Anne Frank honorary citizenship and recognizes her as an “inspiration, and an example for all, especially for the young people of this Nation.”

**Last major action:** 6/6/05 referred to subcommittee.

11 May 2005: Congratulating Israel on the 57th anniversary of its independence, 2005

H. Con. Res. 149, Addison Wilson (R-SC), 78 cosponsors as of 5/19/05.

**Related measures:** S. Res. 151 on 5/19/05; H. Con. Res. 392 on 4/26/06.

**Last major action:** 5/23/05 passed in House 397–0; 5/24/05 referred to Senate committee.

16 May 2005: Condemning British Association of University Teachers (BAUT) resolution to boycott Bar-Ilan University and Haifa University

H. Res. 279, Brian Higgins (D-NY), 42 cosponsors as of 6/7/05.

Also calls on BAUT to overturn its 4/22/05 vote at its hearing on 5/26/05. Denounces the association’s demand that professors from these two Israeli universities take oaths disavowing the Israeli government.

**Last major action:** 5/19/05 referred to subcommittee.

17 May 2005: Encouraging UN to address anti-Semitism

H. Res. 282, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 32 cosponsors.
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Related measures: H. Res. 54 on 1/26/05; S. Res. 184 6/29/05; S. Res. 240 on 9/15/05.

Last major action: 6/7/05 passed in House 409–2.

19 May 2005: Praising Israel and all its global contributions on the occasion of its 57th independence, 2005
S. Res. 151, Bill Frist (R-TN), 6 original cosponsors.


Last major action: 5/19/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

26 May 2005: U.S-Israel Energy Cooperation Act
H. R. 2730, John Shadegg (R-AZ), 100 cosponsors as of 6/22/06.

Directs the secy. of energy, in consultation with the U.S.-Israel Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation or the U.S. Binational Science Foundation, to establish a grant program for joint ventures, composed of both Israeli and U.S. private business entities or of U.S. and Israeli academics, to implement projects to encourage cooperation between the U.S. and Israel on research, development, or commercialization of alternative energy, improved energy efficiency, or renewable energy sources. It also establishes within the Dept. of Energy an International Energy Advisory Board to advise the secretary on the grant program and grant recipients and appropriates $20 m. each year from 2006 to 2012.

Related measures: S. 1862 on 10/7/05; H. R. 5679 on 6/26/06.

Last major action: 7/26/06 passed in Senate by voice vote and 7/27/06 referred to Senate committee.

7 June 2005: Henry J. Hyde UN Reform Act of 2005, reduce funds to UNRWA, grant Israel membership in UN grouping
H. R. 2745, Henry Hyde (R-IL), 1 cosponsor.

Demands that the U.S. contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) not exceed either the highest contribution to UNRWA by an Arab country or 22 percent of UNRWA's total budget; calls on U.S. to use its influence with the UN to secure Israel's full permanent membership in the UN Western European and Others Group (WEOG); calls for a U.S. audit and report on duplicative entities and functions of: (1) the UN Division for Palestinian Rights; (2) the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; (3) the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative to the PLO and PA; (4) the NGO Network on the Question of Palestine; (5) the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the occupied territories.; and (6) any other entity the secy. of state determines results in “duplicative efforts or funding or fails to ensure balance in the approach to Israeli-Palestinian issues.” The Hyde legislation also urges “the shifting of 18 programs from regular assessed budget authority to voluntary funded programs.”

Related measures: S. 1394 on 7/13/05.

Last major action: 6/21/05 placed on Senate calendar.

H. R. 2862, Frank Wolf (R-VA), no cosponsors.

The State Dept. portion of the bill appropriates $375,000 for the Israeli-Arab Scholarship program for Israeli Arabs to attend institutions of higher education in the United States; bars U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation; requires the secy. of state, for purposes of registration of birth, certification of nationality, or issuance of a passport of a U.S. citizen born in Jerusalem, to record the place of birth as Israel upon request of the citizen.

Last major action: 11/22/05 became Public Law No. 109–108.

10 June 2005: Appropriations FY2006, Dept. of Defense
H. R. 2863, Bill Young (R-FL), no cosponsors.

Provides $132.866 m. for research, development, and evaluation of the Arrow missile defense program of which $60.25 m. must be used for production of missile components in Israel and the U.S.; $10 m. will be spent on a joint feasibility study on developing a Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense program.


Last major action: 12/30/05 became Public Law No. 109–148.

24 June 2005: Appropriations FY2006, Dept. of State and Foreign Operations
H. R. 3057, Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), no cosponsors.

Total aid to Israel appropriated is $2.56 billion. This breaks down into: $2.28 billion for Foreign Military Financing, which is available for purchase of advanced weapons systems, and of which $595 million may be used for procurement, research, and development in Israel; $240 million in Economic Support Funds as cash transfer in full and in 30 days; $40 million for Migration and Refugee Assistance to assist the resettlement of Eastern European and Russian immigrants into Israel.

The bill also conditions its voluntary contribution (at least $50 million) to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Preparatory Commission on Israel's free access to the IAEA; conditions funding (approximately $12.5 million) for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters account on the Israeli Magen David Adom Society's free access to the ICRC; provides for commercial leasing of military equipment to Israel (among others) and Israel (among others) in the category of NATO for purposes of the Arms Export Control Act of 1976; urges the U.S. to consider the Arab boycott of Israel when making decisions on weapons sales to any country participating in the boycott; and provides $150 million in Economic Support Funds for USAID projects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The bill specifically prohibits: funds for the PLO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip without a national security waiver from the president; funds to build any new U.S. department or agency in Jerusalem that will deal with the PA; and funds to support a Palestinian state unless the PA government is democratically elected, dismantles terrorist infrastructure, cooperates with Israel on security matters, and promotes peaceful coexistence with Israel. It also prohibits funds to the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

Related measures: H. Res. 54 on 1/26/05; H. Res. 282 on 5/17/05; S. Res. 240 on 9/15/05.

Last major action: 6/29/05 referred to committee.

13 July 2005: United Nations Reform Act, reducing funds to UNRWA, granting Israel membership in UN grouping

S. 1394, Gordon Smith (R-OR), 5 cosponsors as of 11/8/05.

Related measures: H. R. 2745 of 6/7/05.

Last major action: 7/14/05 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

19 July 2005: Congratulating Israel on the election of its UN Ambassador Dan Gillerman as Vice-President of the 60th United Nations General Assembly

H. Res. 368, Adam Schiff (D-CA), 80 cosponsors at time of passage.

Notes that Israel, until 2000 the only country in the UN General Assembly lacking a regional grouping designation, was nominated in 2005 by Western European countries for inclusion in the WEOG and was elected vice-president of the 60th annual General Assembly with Dan Gillerman approved as the permanent Israeli representative to the UN.

Last major action: 10/27/05 passed 407-0.

15 September 2005: Encouraging UN to address anti-Semitism

S. Res. 240, Richard Santorum (R-PA), 17 cosponsors at time of passage.

Related measures: H. Res. 54 on 1/26/05; H. Res. 282 on 5/17/05; S. Res. 184 on 6/29/05.

Last major action: 9/15/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

15 September 2005: Recognizing the suffering of both Palestinians and Israelis during Gaza disengagement

H. Res. 448, Michael Capuano (D-MA), no cosponsors.

“Recognizing the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians and acknowledging the sacrifices made in the interest of peace by the Israeli settlers who left the Gaza Strip voluntarily, and for other purposes.”

Last major action: 9/15/05 referred to committee.

7 October 2005: U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act

S. 1862, Gordon Smith (R-OR), 15 cosponsors as of 7/12/06.
Instructs the secy. of energy, in implementing the Agreement between the Dept. of Energy of the United States of America and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure of Israel Concerning Energy Cooperation, to establish a grant program to support research, development, and commercialization of alternative renewable energy sources.

Authorizes $20 m. annually from 2006 to 2012 for grants to promote the following: (1) solar energy; (2) biomass energy; (3) energy efficiency; (4) wind energy; and (5) fossil energy. Also directs the secretary to establish an advisory board to: (1) monitor how such grants are awarded; and (2) provide periodic performance reviews of actions taken to carry out the grant program.

Related measures: H. R. 2730 of 5/26/05; H. R. 5679 on 6/26/06.

Last major action: 10/7/05 referred to committee.

27 October 2005: Condemning Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s words about “wiping Israel from the map”

S. Res. 292, Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), 15 cosponsors as of 11/1/05.

Related measures: H. Res 523 on 10/28/05; H. Res. 601 on 12/14/05; H. Res. 611 on 12/15/05; S. Res. 336 on 12/16/05; S. Res. 337 on 12/16/05.

Last major action: 10/27/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

28 October 2005: Condemning Iranian President Ahmadinejad’s threats against Israel

H. Res. 523, Henry Hyde (R-IL), 69 original cosponsors.

Also calls on the UN to consider measures to stop Iran from carrying out such threats; affirms the U.S-Israel relationship.

Related measures: S. Res. 292 on 10/27/05; H. Res. 601 on 12/14/05; H. Res. 611 on 12/15/05; S. Res. 336 on 12/16/05; S. Res. 337 on 12/16/05.

Last major action: 10/28/05 passed in House 383-0, 1 present.

4 November 2005: Honoring Yitzhak Rabin 10 years after his death

H. Res. 535, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 44 cosponsors as of 12/6/05.

Commemorates the 10th anniversary of the death of former Israeli PM Rabin, states with admiration his role in the Palmach (the strike force of the Jewish paramilitary Haganah during the British Mandate); and affirms support for his historical role and vision in service to the Israeli people. Also praises U.S.-Israeli relations, “condemns any and all acts of terrorism,” and affirms that “democratic leaders and governments must be changed only by the democratically expressed will of the people.”

Related measures: S. Res. 310 on 11/10/05.

Last major action: 12/6/05 passed in House 399-0.

10 November 2005: Honoring Yitzhak Rabin 10 years after his death

S. Res. 310, Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), 5 original cosponsors.

Related measures: H. Res. 535 on 11/4/05.

Last major action: 11/10/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

18 November 2005: Forbidding Hamas to participate in Palestinian elections

H. Res. 575, Eric Cantor (R-VA), 163 cosponsors as of 12/15/05.

Last major action: 12/16/05 passed in House 397–17, 7 present.

14 December 2005: Condemning Iranian President Ahmadinejad’s rhetoric toward Israel

H. Res. 601, Tom Cole (R-OK), 70 cosponsors as of 3/1/06.

Condemns the President’s “vile assertions” about Israel, calls for world censure of Iran and the UN to stop Iran’s nuclear arms acquisition, and affirms that “the millions murdered in the Holocaust must never be forgotten and such atrocities should never happen again.”

Related measures: S. Res. 292 on 10/27/05; H. Res 523 on 10/28/05; H. Res. 611 on 12/15/05; S. Res. 336 on 12/16/05; S. Res. 337 on 12/16/05.

Last major action: 12/14/05 referred to committee.

15 December 2005: Condemning Iranian President Ahmadinejad’s “outrageous and despicable statements directed towards Israel”

H. Res. 611, Charles Dent (R-PA), no cosponsors.

Related measures: S. Res. 292 on 10/27/05; H. Res 523 on 10/28/05; H. Res. 611 on 12/15/05; S. Res. 336 on 12/16/05; S. Res. 337 on 12/16/05.

Last major action: 12/15/05 referred to committee.
16 December 2005: Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act of 2006  
H. R. 4604, Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), 24 cosponsors as of 9/6/06.  
Seeks to provide $2 m. annually for five years to 501(c)(3) organizations to teach about the Holocaust or conduct activities that promote awareness of it.  
Related measures: companion measure S. 2651 on 4/25/06.  
Last major action: 3/27/06 referred to subcommittee.

16 December 2005: Condemning the “harmful, destructive and anti-Semitic statements” of Iranian President Ahmadinejad  
S. Res. 336, Richard Santorum (R-PA), 21 original cosponsors.  
Related measures: S. Res. 292 on 10/27/05; H. Res 523 on 10/28/05; H. Res. 601 on 12/14/05; H. Res. 611 on 12/15/05; S. Res. 337 on 12/16/05.  
Last major action: 12/16/05 referred to committee.

16 December 2005: Condemning Iranian President Ahmadinejad’s words about “wiping Israel from the map”  
S. Res. 337, Richard Santorum (R-PA), 22 original cosponsors.  
Related measures: S. Res. 292 on 10/27/05; H. Res 523 on 10/28/05; H. Res. 601 on 12/14/05; H. Res. 611 on 12/15/05; S. Res. 336 on 12/16/05.  
Last major action: 12/16/05 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

SECOND SESSION (2006)

31 January 2006: Limitation on Assistance to the Palestinian Authority Act of 2006  
H. R. 4668, Vito Fossella (R-NY), 25 cosponsors as of 6/29/06.  
Seeks to limit assistance to the PA until it is not controlled by a “foreign terrorist organization,” recognizes the right of Israel to exist, disarms all militias, renounces violence and acts of terrorism against Israel, takes definitive steps to be an active and willing participant in peace negotiations, and removes persons with ties to “terrorist organizations” from its security services.  
Related measures: H. R. 4681 on 2/1/06; S. 2237 on 2/1/06; and S. 2370 on 3/6/06.  
Last major action: 1/31/06 referred to committee.

1 February 2006: Palestinian Compliance Act of 2006  
S. 2237, Richard Santorum (R-PA), 5 cosponsors as of 3/7/06.  
Intends to withhold U.S. assistance from the PA until certain conditions are met, including “an end to terrorism and incitement to terrorism”; the prosecution of those who have committed acts of terror; the dismantling of terrorist organizations; and the amendment of the Hamas charter to remove all statements hostile to Israel.  
Related measures: H. R. 4668 on 1/31/06; H. R. 4681 on 2/1/06; and S. 2370 on 3/6/06.  
Last major action: 2/1/06 referred to committee.

1 February 2006: Ending U.S. assistance to PA when any group desiring to destroy Israel has a majority in Parliament  
S. Con. Res. 79, John Thune (R-SD), 7 cosponsors at time of passage.  
Last major action: 2/1/06 passed in Senate by unanimous consent. 2/15/06 passed in House 418–1.

1 February 2006: Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act  
H. R. 4681, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 295 cosponsors as of 5/10/06.  
Calls for cutting U.S. aid to the PA entirely, forbidding PLO offices in the U.S., prohibiting travel by PA and PC members in the U.S., and completely severing all contacts between the U.S. and the PA.  
Related measures: H. R. 4668 on 1/31/06; S. 2237 on 2/1/06; S. 2370 on 3/6/06.  
Last major action: 5/25/06 referred to committee. Measure was stopped due to administration pressure against it; S. 2370 was passed instead.

1 February 2006: Defending U.S. allies, including Israel, from ballistic missile attack  
S. 2242, David Vitter (R-LA), no cosponsors.  
 Declares that U.S. policy is to provide, as soon as is technologically feasible, for deployment of missile defense systems to defend Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, and all NATO members against ballistic missile attack.  
Last major action: 2/2/06 referred to committee.

28 February 2006: Upgrading Israel's NATO status  
H. Res. 700, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 26 cosponsors as of 3/28/06.
Supports an upgrade in Israel’s relationship with NATO to being a leading member of NATO’s Individual Cooperation Program as a first step to its full membership in NATO.

Last major action: 6/27/06 passed House committee by unanimous consent; agreed to seek passage in full committee.

2 March 2006: Permitting usage of Capitol grounds for Holocaust remembrance

H. Con. Res. 350, Eric Cantor (R-VA), 3 original cosponsors.

Last major action: 3/14/06 passed house by voice vote; 3/16/06 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

2 March 2006: Condemning the Iranian government’s support of Hamas

H. Res. 707, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), 11 cosponsors as of 7/20/06.

Last major action: 3/2/06 referred to committee.

6 March 2006: Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act

S. 2370, Mitch McConnell (R-KY), 90 cosponsors as of 6/26/06.

Bans all U.S. contact with and funds to Palestinian entities except for the office of the PA president and his security personnel. Exempted from the general prohibition on U.S.-PA contacts and U.S. assistance are those aimed at promoting the peace process, democracy, and the rule of law; also allowed are funds for the PA’s judiciary branch “and other entities.” The bill states that this policy can change if a PA ministry or agency is not controlled by Hamas, or if Hamas acknowledges Israel’s right to exist, adheres to all previous agreements, makes progress in purging those with ties to terrorism from its security forces, promotes democracy and financial transparency, cooperates with Israel’s security services, ends anti-Israel incitement, and dismantles all “terrorist infrastructure.” If the U.S. president cannot certify that all these conditions are met, PA territory will be labeled a “terrorist sanctuary.” The bill also forbids PA members to travel beyond 25 miles from the UN mission in New York, exceptions being made for the president of the PA “and his or her personal representatives, provided that the President and his or her personal representatives are not affiliated with Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization.” Maintenance of PA offices in the U.S. is forbidden unless the president determines it is within the national security interests of the U.S. Finally, the bill establishes a fund called the “Israeli-Palestinian Peace, Reconciliation and Democracy Fund” with an annual budget of $20 m. to be made available to Palestinian and Israeli organizations to promote human rights, democracy, freedom of the press, nonviolence among Palestinians, and peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis.

Related measures: H. R. 4668 on 1/31/06; H. R. 4681 on 2/1/06; S. 2237 on 2/1/06.

Last major action: 12/21/06 became Public Law No. 109–446.


H. R. 4939, Jerry Lewis (R-CA), no cosponsors.

Prohibits funding for the PA unless the secy. of state determines, and reports to the appropriations committees, that the PA has complied with a specified 2006 statement that a future Palestinian government must be committed to nonviolence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations. The bill authorizes the president to waive such prohibition after making certain certifications to such committees, including that it is in the U.S. national security interest to provide such assistance, and that neither Hamas nor any other foreign terrorist organization is influencing the PA. Bill also prohibits funds for the West Bank and Gaza until the secy. of state consults with the appropriations committees, submits a revised assistance plan to such committees, and determines and reports to such committees that appropriate procedures and safeguards exist to ensure that U.S. assistance is not provided to any entity or institution believed to advocate, plan, sponsor, or engage in terrorist activity.


Last major action: 6/15/06 became Public Law No. 109–234.

16 March 2006: Granting Congressional medal to John Pehle, a U.S. citizen who helped rescue Jews in WWII

H. R. 5011, Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), 8 cosponsors as of 9/27/06.

Mentions that Jewish refugees were funneled to Palestine, among other countries.

Last major action: 4/21/2006 referred to House subcommittee.
H. R. 5017, Christopher Shays (R-CT), 12 cosponsors as of 9/12/06.
In the section entitled Comprehensive Coalition Strategy Against Islamist Terrorism, the House, inter alia, cites its opinion that the U.S. "should use a broader approach to target the roots of terrorism, including...making progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process."
Related measures: S. 3456 on 6/6/06; S. 3875 on 9/7/06.
Last major action: 4/20/06 referred to subcommittee.

29 March 2006: Call for Saudi Arabia to end all boycotts of Israeli products as per WTO responsibilities
H. Con. Res. 370, Clay Shaw (R-FL), 6 cosponsors as of 4/5/06.
Last major action: 4/6/06 referred to Senate committee.

S. 2651, Robert Menéndez (D-NJ), 3 cosponsors as of 6/14/06.
Related measures: H. R. 4604 of 12/16/05.
Last major action: 4/25/06 referred to committee.

25 April 2006: Commending the American Jewish Committee for a century of leadership
H. Res. 773, Peter Sessions (R-TX), 69 cosponsors as of 7/17/06.
Related measures: S. Res. 444 on 4/25/06.
Last major action: 5/4/06 passed House committee unanimous consent. The subcommittee reported the measure to the full House, but it was never brought up on the floor or voted on by the full House.

25 April 2006: Commending the American Jewish Committee for a century of leadership
S. Res. 444, Gordon Smith (R-OR), 2 original cosponsors.
Related measures: H. Res. 773 on 4/25/06.
Last major action: 4/25/06 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

26 April 2006: Recognizing Israel's Independence Day, 2006
H. Con. Res. 392, Addison Wilson (R-SC), 102 cosponsors as of 5/2/06.
Recognizes the significance of Israel’s independence in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people; commends the bipartisan commitment of all U.S. administrations and Congresses since 1948 to work for Israel’s security and well-being; congratulates the U.S. and Israel for strengthening bilateral relations in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security; and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges.
Last major action: 5/3/06 referred to committee.

3 May 2006: Recognizing Israel's Independence Day
S. Res. 463, Bill Frist (R-TN), 11 original cosponsors.
Last major action: 5/3/06 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

3 May 2006: UNRWA Integrity Act
H. R. 5278, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 20 cosponsors as of 9/6/06.
Seeks “to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza to move to post-refugee status, and for other purposes,” specifically attempting to phase out UNRWA by encouraging Palestinian refugees to move out of camps and integrate into society. Also seeks to study the role of UNRWA in fueling or promoting anti-Semitism and denying Israel’s right to exist.
Last major action: 5/3/06 referred to House committee.

22 May 2006: Commemorating the 1967 war and congratulating Israel's victory in Jerusalem
H. Con. Res. 412, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 31 cosponsors as of 6/8/06.
Congratulates the residents of Jerusalem and the people of Israel on the 39th anniversary of the reunification of the city. States that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel; calls on the president and secy. of state to say this and make it policy, and to implement the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 and move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.
Related measures: S. Con. Res. 98 on 6/8/06.
Last major action: 5/22/06 referred to House committee.
25 May 2006: Recognizing [Jewish] refugee populations in the Middle East
H. Res. 848, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 15 cosponsors as of 7/20/06.
Calls for all refugee situations to be resolved in order to achieve a stable Middle East, including that of Jewish and Christian refugees who left Arab countries; calls for inserting references to these whenever the Palestinian refugee issue arises. Cites the U.S.'s particular interest in Jewish refugees from Arab countries since 1977 and states that "Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians have affirmed that a comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict will require a just solution to the plight of all 'refugees.' " Bill also states that the international community must be aware of and address Jewish and other refugees in the region to achieve a comprehensive peace agreement.

Related measures: S. Res. 494 on 5/25/05.
Last major action: 5/25/06 referred to House committee.

25 May 2006: Recognizing [Jewish] refugee populations in the Middle East
S. Res. 494, Richard Santorum (R-PA), 11 cosponsors as of 9/5/06.

Related measures: H. Res. 848 on 5/25/05.

Last major action: 5/25/06 referred to committee.

5 June 2006: Appropriations FY2007, Dept. of State and Foreign Operations
H. R. 5522, Jim Kolbe (R-AZ), no cosponsors.
Provides Israel with $2.5 b.: $120 m. in Economic Support Funds in cash and full payment after 30 days; $40 m. for Migration and Refugee Assistance to resettle immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia; conditions U.S. funding to the IAEA on Israel's free access to the agency; conditions U.S. contribution to the ICRC on free access to the Committee for Israel's Magen David Adom Society; $2.34 b. in foreign military financing to be disbursed in 30 days, of which $610 m. is for procurement of defense articles in Israel; allows for commercial leasing of military equipment to Israel; urges the administration to consider the Arab boycott of Israel in decisions concerning weapons sales to countries participating in the boycott; and urges the president to encourage allies to penalize businesses that participate in the boycott. The bill also prohibits funds for the PLO in the West Bank and Gaza unless a national security waiver is given by the president; prohibits Economic Support Funds for the West Bank and Gaza; prohibits funds for building any new U.S. government department or agency in Jerusalem that will deal with the PA; and prohibits funds to support a Palestinian state unless the PA government is democratically elected, dismantles terrorist infrastructure, cooperates with Israeli security forces, and promotes peaceful coexistence with Israel. It also prohibits funds to the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

Related measures: H. R. 3057 on 6/24/05 for foreign operations appropriations bill FY2006.

Last major action: 7/10/06 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

S. 3456, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 3 cosponsors as of 9/8/06.

Related measures: H. R. 5017 on 3/28/06; S. 3875 on 9/7/06.

Last major action: 6/6/06 referred to committee.

8 June 2006: Commemorating the 1967 war and congratulating Israel's victory in Jerusalem
S. Con. Res. 98, Samuel Brownback (R-KS), 12 original cosponsors.

Related measures: H. Con. Res. 412 on 5/22/06.

Last major action: 6/8/06 referred to committee.

H. R. 5631, Bill Young (R-FL), no cosponsors.
Appropriates $137.894 m. for the U.S.-Israeli produced Arrow missile defense system, of which $53 m. will be used for producing Arrow missile components in the U.S. and in Israel and of which $20.4 m. will be available to fund a joint feasibility study into production of a Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense.

Related measures: H. R. 2863 on 6/10/05 for defense appropriations FY2006. 9/5/06 Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced an amendment (S.A. 4882) to this act after the war between Hizballah and Israel in 2006 that forbade the usage of cluster munitions in populated areas; it was defeated 9/6/06 70–30.

Last major action: 9/29/06 became Public Law No. 109–289.
26 June 2006: U.S.-Israel Energy Co-operation Act
H. R. 5679, Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), no cosponsors.
Related measures: H. R. 2730 on 5/26/05; S. 1862 on 10/7/05.
Last major action: 7/18/06 referred to House subcommittee.

18 July 2006: Condemning Hamas, Hizballah, Iran, and Syria and supporting Israel during the summer war in Lebanon
H. Res. 921, John Boehner (R-OH), 2 original cosponsors.
Related measures: S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H. Con. Res. 450 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 926 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 945 on 7/25/06; H. Res. 954 on 7/26/06; H. Res. 955 on 7/26/06; S. Res 548 on 8/3/06; H. Res. 1044 on 9/27/06.
Last major action: 7/18/06 referred to committee.

19 July 2006: Calling for cease-fire between Hizballah and Israel
H. Con. Res. 450, Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), 34 original cosponsors.
Related measures: S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 921 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 926 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 945 on 7/25/06; H. Res. 954 on 7/26/06; H. Res. 955 on 7/26/06; S. Res 548 on 8/3/06; H. Res. 1044 on 9/27/06.
Last major action: 7/19/06 referred to committee.

19 July 2006: Condemning the “kidnapping of Israeli soldiers” and supporting Israeli military operations
H. Res. 926, Darrell Issa (R-CA), 4 original cosponsors.
Related measures: S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 921 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H. Con. Res. 450 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 926 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 945 on 7/25/06; H. Res. 954 on 7/26/06; H. Res. 955 on 7/26/06; S. Res 548 on 8/3/06; H. Res. 1044 on 9/27/06.
Last major action: 7/19/06 referred to committee.

25 July 2006: Calling for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon and a halt to targeting civilian infrastructure
H. Res. 945, Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), 18 cosponsors as of 9/12/06.
Related measures: S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 921 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H. Con. Res. 450 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 926 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 945 on 7/25/06; H. Res. 954 on 7/26/06; H. Res. 955 on 7/26/06; S. Res 548 on 8/3/06; H. Res. 1044 on 9/27/06.
Last major action: 7/25/06 referred to committee.

26 July 2006: Appointing a U.S. special envoy to the Middle East
H. Res. 954, James Leach (R-IA), 4 cosponsors as of 9/20/06.
Related measures: S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 921 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H.
26 July: Calling for a sustainable peace in the Middle East
H. Res. 955, Sam Farr (D-CA), 1 cosponsor as of 7/28/06.
Calls for observance of a cease-fire in Lebanon; for U.S. and international aid to rebuild Lebanon; and for all parties to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Related measures: S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 921 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H. Con. Res. 450 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 926 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 945 on 7/25/06; H. Res. 954 on 7/26/06; S. Res. 548 on 8/3/06; H. Res. 1044 on 9/27/06.

Last major action: 7/26/06 referred to committee.

3 August 2006: Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking (PACT) Act of 2006
S. 3810, Herb Kohl (D-WI), 1 original cosponsor.
"To prevent tobacco smuggling, to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, and for other purposes." The bill states itself necessary because, among other reasons, "Hezbollah, Hamas, al-Qa'ida, and other terrorist organizations have profited from trafficking in illegal cigarettes or counterfeit cigarette tax stamps."

Last major action: 8/3/06 referred to committee.

3 August 2006: Sense of Senate during Israel-Lebanon war
S. Res. 548, Christopher Dodd (D-CT), 7 original cosponsors.
Calls on Syria and Iran to end support for Hizballah and Hamas. Calls on the U.S. to work with all parties to obtain a cessation of hostilities; to remain engaged to facilitate security for Israel, Lebanon, and all the Middle East; and to ensure the safe return of Israeli soldiers from Lebanon.

Related measures: S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 921 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H. Con. Res. 450 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 926 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 945 on 7/25/06; H. Res. 954 on 7/26/06; H. Res. 955 on 7/26/06; H. Res. 1044 on 9/27/06.

Last major action: 8/3/06 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

S. 3875, Harry Reid (D-NV), 1 original cosponsor.
"A bill to provide real national security, restore United States leadership, and implement tough and smart policies to win the war on terror, and for other purposes."

Related measures: H. R. 5017 on 3/28/06; S. 3456 on 6/6/06.

Last major action: 9/8/06 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

8 September 2006: Tribute to Waitstill and Martha Sharp, U.S. citizens designated as righteous among the nations at Yad Vashem
S. Res. 562, Lincoln Chafee (R-RI), 3 original cosponsors.

Related measures: H. Res. 1063 on 9/29/06.

Last major action: 9/8/06 passed in Senate by unanimous consent.

12 September 2006: Calling on Iran to fulfill Nuclear Proliferation Treaty obligations
H. Con. Res. 469, Alcee Hastings (D-FL), 4 cosponsors as of 11/9/06.
Condemns Iran for its nuclear technology; asserts that Iran is deliberately fomenting instability in the Middle East by supporting Islamic militias and terrorist organizations in Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, the Persian Gulf, and Iraq; and condemns Iran for President Ahmadinejad's comments that have been translated as his desire to "wipe Israel from the map."

Last major action: 9/12/06 referred to committee.

20 September 2006: Supporting Lebanese sovereignty
H. Res. 1017, Tom Lantos (D-CA), 15 cosponsors as of 9/26/06.
Condemns Syria for support of Hizballah and for continuing to intimidate people in Lebanon; interprets UNSC Res. 1701 to mean the disarmament of Hizballah; congratulates the people of Lebanon who adhere to the principles of the Cedar Revolution, which saw the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon; and commends the decision of the Lebanese government to deploy its troops to the border with Israel.

Last major action: 9/26/06 passed in House 411-5.
27 September 2006: Calling for an unconditional release of Israeli soldiers in Gaza and Lebanon

H. Res. 1044, Gary Ackerman (D-NY), 2 cosponsors.

Related measures: H. Res. 921 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 922 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 923 on 7/18/06; H. Res. 926 on 7/19/06; H. Res. 945 on 7/25/06; H. Res. 954 on 7/26/06; H. Res. 955 on 7/26/06; H. Con. Res. 450 on 7/19/06; S. Res. 534 on 7/18/06, S. Res 548 on 8/3/06.

Last major action: 10/12/2006 referred to subcommittee.

29 September 2006: Honoring Reverend Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp, U.S. citizens designated as righteous gentiles at Yad Vashem

H. Res. 1063, James McGovern (D-MA), 34 cosponsors as of 12/5/06.

Related measures: S. Res. 562 on 9/8/06.

Last major action: 10/12/06 referred to subcommittee.