

Lasting Peace for Israel

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Having personally visited Israel, met with families and seen first-hand the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, I know that one of our most important missions is to ensure lasting peace and security for Israel. A safe and strong Israel provides stability across the region and serves as an important homeland for Jewish people around the world.

A Strong Relationship with Israel

In Congress, I will work to strengthen the special relationship between the United States and Israel. To protect this special relationship, we must prevent Israel's safety and security from becoming a partisan issue. Protecting our most important ally in the region must be bipartisan and the US Congress should speak with a unified voice that we will provide the resources, equipment and support to ensure that Israel can defend itself from threats across the region.

Opportunities for Economic Growth and Cooperation

I will continue to support aid to Israel to ensure it has a qualitative military edge within the region and I support the memorandum of agreement President Obama entered into with Israel that provides funding for much needed defense systems like Iron Dome and David's Sling. Additionally, I believe that the relationship between the United States and Israel can be strengthened through expanded trade and economic cooperation. In particular, I think that there are opportunities for New Mexico and Israel to work together on technology focused on clean energy. We are in a climate change crisis that affects both countries and working together to produce renewable energy and reduce carbon in our atmosphere serves to help avert a climate disaster for future generations and also serves as another way to strengthen the special U.S.-Israel relationship.

Iran

Iran must never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran has repeatedly threatened to destroy the Jewish homeland and I believe their threats. I also believe that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) presented the greatest opportunity to halt Iran's weapons enrichment program. President Trump's decision to unilaterally exit from the agreement has allowed Iran to restart their enrichment program unchecked, hurting Israel's safety and U.S. national security interests. In order to ensure that Iran does not acquire a bomb I believe we must re-engage with the global community over this shared goal.

Lasting Peace

I support working towards a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The goal should be a safe homeland for the Jewish people as well as Palestinian state, with borders based on the 1967 lines and a capital in Jerusalem for both states. I hope that the U.S. will play a constructive role in the peace process that respects human rights for both sides and ends an era of terrorism. Direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians are key to establishing lasting peace.



Anti-Semitism and Threats of Delegitimization

In addition to the very real threats to Israel from across the region, I am alarmed by anti-Israel bias and attempts to delegitimize Israel coming from here in the United States and around the world. In particular, I am troubled by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and believe that it should be called out as destructive and dangerous, and I support H.Res. 246, which passed in the House of Representatives in 2019. These attacks are rooted in anti-Semitic sentiment and I will stand firmly against any group or person spouting these views as a way of attacking Jewish people or attempting to delegitimize Israel's right to exist.

As a gay man, I've experienced what it means to be discriminated against and have had hateful words used against me to isolate me and my community as an "other". I've seen that same hatred and venom directed at Jews and Jewish institutions here in the United States and around the world. This hateful rhetoric and discrimination has no place in our society and it needs to be called out. While anti-Semitic and hateful voices have always been present, I believe that President Trump has emboldened them. In Congress, I will oppose any attempts to weaken hate-crime statutes and I will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish community.