

JEWISH INSIDER

1). Do you believe there is a concerning rise of antisemitism on the [Right or Left], including in your own party? How do you propose to address this issue?

There is absolutely a dangerous rise in anti-Semitism in the United States and around the world, and, regardless of where it originates, it must stop. That said, it is far more dangerous when those anti-Semitic views are held by leaders serving in government. Sadly, we have witnessed this rising tide of anti-Semitism in Congress over the last several years, with a growing number of members in the Democratic Caucus voicing their support for the BDS movement, which attacks Israel's very right to exist.

Anti-Semitism is also becoming all too common on college campuses, where university officials have not done nearly enough to prevent the anti-Semitic rhetoric and violence running rampant on their campuses. In July 2019, I [introduced](#) the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act to help combat anti-Semitism on college campuses by giving colleges and universities the tools necessary to fight such discrimination on their campuses. Specifically, this bill would provide the Department of Education with the resources it needs to investigate potentially anti-Semitic behavior and actions on college campuses by providing a definition of "anti-Semitic". A few months later, I stood next to President Trump at the White House as he signed an Executive Order to combat anti-Semitism on college campuses, which included language from the bill I introduced.

I believe we have to work together to address the dangerous effects of anti-Semitism across our country, and that has to begin with rooting it out of the highest echelons of our government.

2). Do you think a two-state solution will facilitate peace between Israelis and Palestinians? If so, what are the basic parameters? If not a two-state solution, what do you suggest? What do you agree or disagree with about the Trump peace plan?

I believe a two-state solution is the best option to secure peace between Israel and Palestine. I agree with President Trump that, especially given Israel's agreement to terms for a potential Palestinian state, a two-state solution is a pragmatic approach that respects the validity of Israel and its people while giving Palestinians the opportunity to self-govern and remain in their communities. Within a two-state solution, it is imperative that Israel remain the ultimate guardian of holy sites and Jerusalem to ensure all who want to worship in these sacred places will continue to have the opportunity to do so. It is also imperative that, in any agreement, Israel has defensible borders to continue to protect themselves from any future attacks.

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3). Why would you re-enter or stay out of the JCPOA with Iran? If re-enter, under what conditions or changes? How should the United States deal with the Iranian government on an ongoing basis? Should the U.S. military maintain a presence in the Middle East?

Since President Obama first announced the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), I have strongly opposed the deal and have said repeatedly that I believe the United States never should have entered into it in the first place. We knew from the beginning that any deal negotiated by

the Obama Administration would not go far enough to keep Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon or to protect Israel from a nuclear Iran. With the JCPOA, President Obama facilitated cooperation with a country that openly chants “Death to America” in the streets. That’s why I strongly supported President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the deal in 2018.

A nation that promotes terror internationally and against its own people has no business increasing its nuclear capabilities, and America has no place giving Iran legitimacy. Iran must be held accountable, and the U.S. must continue to work with our allies to rein in this rogue nation. This involves continuing to sanction Iran to increase stability in the Middle East. Until Iran shows regard for Israel, the people of the Middle East, and its own citizens, the U.S. must demonstrate to Iran’s leaders that it will not back down.

4). Should the U.S. increase, maintain or decrease the amount of foreign aid to Israel and other countries in the Middle East? Should the U.S. condition its aid for specific results? What does the U.S. benefit from its relationship with Israel?

Israel has been and always will be one of the United States’ longstanding allies. As we continue fighting for stability in the Middle East, it is absolutely critical that we maintain our strong support for Israel and continually work to strengthen our strategic relationship.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have consistently supported policies that strengthen our vital relationship and give Israel the resources it needs to maintain security in its region. In 2013, I introduced [legislation](#) to further the United States’ commitment to the protection of Israel and its military interests by bolstering Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge (QME). As a Chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserve, I was deployed to the Middle East in 2008, and I witnessed firsthand the need for this type of legislation in order to protect American and allied interests in the area from both traditional and unconventional attacks. I am proud that this bill was ultimately signed into law and continues to provide critical aid to Israel to this day.

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As one of our closest allies and friends, Israel should know the United States will always do its part to ensure Israelis are never put in harm's way, and I remain committed to ensuring the United States provides Israel the support it needs to defend itself.