



Statement of Support for America's Israeli Allies

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Our strong alliance with Israel is a cornerstone of my campaign for the United States Senate – I see this through both a personal and strategic lens. As a Christian, I believe we must do all we can to protect the birthplace of our faith and the cradle of our civilization.

Strategically, I believe that Israel is and always will be our key ally in the Middle East. As a Fulbright Scholar living in North Africa for one year just before 9/11 caring for children with muscular dystrophy, I had a front row seat to the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism across the Middle East. My experiences reinforced my belief that without Israel, the forces of radicalism could rage unchecked throughout the region. I saw first-hand the power of these radical forces to destroy society.

Israel is the beacon of democracy, hope, and stability in a region of the world that presents America with one of its most concerning geo-political challenges.

Maintenance of the Israeli Qualitative Military Edge (QME)

It is imperative that we uphold the US-Israeli Security Memorandum of Understanding, which provides \$3.3 billion in security assistance and \$500 million in cooperative missile defense funding annually through FY2028. This will ensure that Israel possesses the most advanced and capable military force components to create its Qualitative Military Edge (QME), including up-to-date missile defense systems, advanced cyber capabilities, and frequent joint training exercises. The United States will benefit from Israel's QME by multiplying our own military forces, since Israeli military operations often support U.S. interests. Additionally, bolstering Israel's military might will serve as a deterrent to attacks in the region from Iran and other enemies. Providing security assistance to our ally Israel is the most tangible sign of support that we can show.

Iran's Threat to Israel and the World

Israel's enemies are America's enemies, and Israel is certainly threatened by the Iranian government. Israel's population contains the majority of the world's Jewish people and is clustered within a small number of geographically close and densely populated cities. This leaves the Israeli people highly vulnerable to an Iranian nuclear attack.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has not quelled Iran's nuclear ambitions and has made Israel more vulnerable. President Trump's decision to withdraw from the JCPOA in May 2018 and the several rounds of sanctions against Iran occurring since then are working to starve Iran of the necessary resources required to continue their pursuit of a nuclear arsenal. I vastly prefer a diplomatic and non-military solution in dealing with Iran, but the JCPOA was not strong enough to be successful. Any future nuclear agreement with Iran must

contain agreements for complete and transparent records of Iran's past and present nuclear activities, the halting of ICBM development, and permission for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to conduct investigations as they see fit, without advanced notice. Iran must never be able to possess nuclear weapons.

Not only is Iran a growing nuclear threat, but also it sponsors the activities of terrorist groups Hamas and Hezbollah. Additionally, Iran supports Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, who is responsible for chemical attacks against his own people. The United States must do everything possible to ensure Iran cannot threaten Israel and the world with nuclear force or continue its dangerous march towards greater influence in the Middle East.

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Israel has consistently shown that it is willing to make tough sacrifices to reach lasting peace with Palestine and other neighboring countries. However, each time Israel has come to the negotiating table, willing to resolve long-standing conflicts with the Palestinians, the Palestinians have shown stubborn unwillingness to work towards a peaceful solution.

Israel cannot negotiate a compromise without a willing partner. The only way that lasting peace can be achieved is if the Palestinians agree to negotiate a two-state solution in a mutually agreeable manner. As such, the United States should not pressure Israel to engage in peace talks or impose terms on either party. Rather, the U.S. should remain willing and open to serve as an honest intermediary in talks between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Recognition of Jerusalem

President Trump made a historic and rightful decision in 2018 to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem as per the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995. The U.S. embassy now stands open in the eternal capital of the Jewish people. I am proud to see our President take a stand on this issue and provide important recognition that Israel has the right to determine its own capital.

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement

The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign is a misguided and unfair movement that seeks to delegitimize Israel. America must use our economic power to pressure nations to engage in productive free-trade practices with Israel. We must also continue to call out the systematic bias of the United Nations against Israel. Proponents of BDS are working to isolate Israel from global business, tourism, and academic interactions and promote a false narrative about the Jewish state. As Israel's ally it is our duty to condemn the BDS movement and promote Israel's ability to thrive in the international community.