

## **Israel Position Paper**

### **The US-Israel Relationship**

I am proud of the unique and important relationship and alliance forged between the United States and Israel over the last seven decades, grounded in our shared democratic ideals and common interests. Israel has been an essential partner to the United States in the Middle East since President Truman's recognition of Israel in 1948. I believe that with this critical and beneficial alliance comes a responsibility to speak out when Israeli government policies undermine the shared values and interests that bring our two nations together. In Congress, I will do everything in my power to further the bond between our two countries and continue the US tradition of a diplomacy-first foreign policy in working towards peace in this critical region.

### **Israeli and Palestinian Rights**

I believe that Israelis have a right to live in safety, security, and peace, free from attacks and violence. I believe that Palestinians are entitled to also live in peace with basic human rights, dignity, and a sovereign state that is their national homeland. I understand the critical role that U.S. assistance plays in ensuring safety against outside threats in Israel, and believe that we should continue to honor the MOU negotiated by the United States under President Obama and the Israeli government.

I support and applaud President Biden's decision to restore U.S. aid to Palestinians, and as a member of Congress, I will advocate for continued aid to Israel, and continued U.S. assistance to Palestinian people, including funding to United Nations agencies that serve Palestinians. Collectively, these funds have encouraged historic cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian security officials in the West Bank, while also meeting critical humanitarian needs, preventing violence, and promoting stability. In addition to these measures, I recognize that the long-term security of both Israeli and Palestinian people ultimately depends on the realization of a two-state solution. My career and life's work on land and water issues and restorative justice provides me with a unique lens through which I see opportunities for water, infrastructure, science and other exchanges to help build bridges for understanding and cooperation between Israelis, Palestinians and others in a region where water is a complex issue, just as it is in the American Southwest and New Mexico.

### **Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

I firmly believe that the United States has an ethical and diplomatic responsibility to work with Israelis and Palestinians, as well as regional and international partners, to achieve (and preserve the possibility of achieving) a negotiated solution and peaceful end to hostilities.

Such a resolution would safeguard Israel's identity as a democracy and Jewish homeland, and protect Palestinian human rights and enable Palestinian self-government and self-determination. I support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the ultimate goal of two viable states – one Israeli, and one Palestinian – living side-by-side in peace and security. I support this solution with the belief that we can strengthen relationships and peace in the region as a whole, while recognizing the rights and self-determination of Palestinian people and maintaining our important relationship with Israel. As countless members of Israel's national security establishment and humanitarian organizations across the world have acknowledged, failing to reach such a solution represents an existential threat to Israel and to the peace and well-being of all who live in the region. Brokering an agreement in accordance with decades of international consensus, includes borders based on the 1967 lines with equivalent land swaps and a capital in Jerusalem for both states. Such an agreement will bolster Israeli security by providing for an internationally recognized border with a future state of Palestine, while allowing for continued relationships between Israel and her allies, and the promotion of human security for all in the region.

To preserve the prospects for such a peace, I will oppose unilateral actions that obstruct the path towards two states on either side of the conflict. Namely, I will speak out against any unilateral Israeli annexation of West Bank territory, continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and demolitions and forced relocations of Palestinians, all of which serve to further entrench the occupation. I will also stand firmly against incendiary rhetoric and the use of violence which endangers Palestinians, undermines Israeli security, and harms prospects for achieving a sustainable peace.

Having traveled extensively in the region, seeing with my own eyes what life is like, I believe that the peace, prosperity, and well-being of the Israeli and Palestinian people depend on a two-state solution. I believe in the fundamental sovereignty, self-determination, and human rights of all people, and that our foreign policy should always proceed through that lens.

## **Iran**

I support the Biden Administration's efforts to rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and believe that the acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran would pose a serious threat to Israel, to the region, and to world stability. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, negotiated in 2015, effectively blocked Iran's path to nuclear weapons and allowed the United States and our allies to deal with Iran's other malign behavior without the threat of nuclear weapons. President Trump's abandonment of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was a baseless decision that was rejected by our allies, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, and members of the President's own Cabinet. This decision represented an unprovoked and unjustified assault on international

security and peace that nearly triggered a costly and dangerous war against Iran and which failed to curb Iran's dangerous behavior.

In Congress, I will support the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and am committed to restoring and building upon it through further diplomacy to curb Iran's nuclear activities and other threatening behavior. I also support continued efforts to make clear that Congressional authorization to engage in military operations against Iran does not currently exist, and I believe that Congress should clearly define existing authorizations for the use of military force.

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