

KELLY
GARRETT
★★★
FOR CONGRESS
12TH DISTRICT



On August 2nd, 2022

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To Represent Michigan's 12th Congressional District

UNITED STATES - ISRAEL POSITION PAPER

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Kelly Garrett for Congress
United States-Israel Position Paper

My views on the relationship between the United States and Israel are informed not only by current American interests, but also from a historical and spiritual perspective:

- The common family bonds of Abraham, Isaac and Ishmael and the path to redemption and penitence
- Passover and the exodus of the Jewish nation from slavery in Egypt to the land of Israel more than 3,000 years ago
- America's documented events of systemic racism and bias against African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans Jewish Americans and Arab/Chaldean/Muslim Americans
- Historical antisemitism and the persecution of the Jewish people, most horrifically demonstrated in the Holocaust, and continued global antisemitism including here in the United States today

The collective backdrop for so many Americans of crisis, adversity, and existential threats to our survival—and how we've arrived on a stronger, more dutiful, and prepared path to achieve a brighter future for our descendants, bilateral relationships to empower our communities and reconciliation through honest engagement with those who oppressed us in the past for a better way forward—is reflected in modern Israel's success as well. Therefore, I believe that our partnership and my turn in Congress as a steward of our collective journeys and supporter of the special relationship between the United States and Israel must be rooted in using our collective past to ensure a salient, hopeful, and realistic future.

Supporting Security Assistance to Israel – Israel is our longest term and most trusted partner in the Middle East, sharing the best American aspirations and values. As the only full democracy in the region, Israel is a genuinely multicultural society that serves as a beacon for what can exist in the region. But Israel still faces serious threats from those who reject its presence. Ensuring that our ally remains safe and thrives makes American support for Israel's security good American policy. The United States also benefits directly from joint development of defense and security systems. As a member of Congress, I would support and lobby my fellow members to support the agreement reached by President Obama that provides a \$3.3 billion appropriation allocation for Israel's security assistance and \$500 million annually (nearly all of which is spent in the United States) for the joint missile defense programs such as the "Iron Dome," which help protect lives daily. I will also seek to further expand pro-active security planning and drive partnerships and supplier procurement opportunities for African American, Latino American, Native American, Asian American, and other minority businesses to support the development of these systems and diversify economic opportunity for businesses and employees of color. This will help increase both the awareness and support for Israel security assistance as an American interest and bring benefits to more Americans in their daily lives.

Strengthening the U.S.-Israel Relationship, Opposing Anti-Israel Discrimination and Promoting Peace:

Strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship requires a holistic approach to engagement and partnership beyond Washington while standing united against radical tendencies in American politics, which threatens not only traditional bipartisan support for Israel but also the well-being of the American Jewish community, the African American community, and all communities. There is a strain of anti-Israel sentiment within the Democratic party that sometimes verges on the antisemitic, and we must



and will stand against it. We must also recognize and confront a growing nationalist and antidemocratic trend that has affected so much of the Republican party which attempts to obstruct basic citizen rights and encourage white supremacist themes, which denigrate and threaten the Jewish community, the Muslim community, women and the LGBTQ community, and all communities of color. To continue supporting the U.S. Israel partnership, we must stand united with candidates and elected officials who are committed to democracy in America and Israel.

Additionally, we must be proactive in building bridges across the geographical, religious, and ethnic segments in America to address misinformation regarding Israel, its right to self-defense and its demonstrated commitment to a peace in the Middle East. Building active engagements with the American Arab, Chaldean and Iranian communities can both reverse the trend of antagonism toward Israel in my Congressional district and nationally.

As a Congressperson, I would seek to engage the Arab American, Chaldean American and the Iranian American communities in concert with Jewish Americans to bridge these disconnects and foster a similar reconciliation based on shared interests and shared American experiences.

In Congress, I will support Israel's security and right to self-defense alongside the goal of Israel's Palestinian neighbors establishing a demilitarized state at peace with Israel. This is the rational and constructive path. Rejectionist international movements against Israel at the U.N. or the International Criminal Court, and discriminatory aims of the BDS movement, are not constructive and are not moving toward reconciliation. Our tradition teaches that Abraham asked God for blessings to be provided to Ishmael and Isaac and despite the interpersonal tensions continued to engage Ishmael when Ishmael went astray. Continued engagement and honest dialogue led to reconciliation and compatibility between the sons of Abraham in his later years and at the time of his death. Demonstration of American trust, partnership and cooperation—without attempting to impose results through conditioning aid or other pressure tactics—will lead the path towards Israel's long-term security and a sustainable two-state outcome.

Support US & Israeli Veterans

If it's not passed before I join the 118th Congress, I will serve as a co-sponsor and reintroduce the U.S.-Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act. The bill as currently written directs the Secretary of Defense to explore scientific collaboration and award grants to American and Israeli institutions working to research, diagnose, and treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

I additionally will seek legislative and departmental pathways to integrate the innovative medical cannabis research and product development taking place in Israel with our growing commercial medical cannabis sector in America, such as the benefits of CBD on treating PTSD. Implementing and expanding intra-governmental mental health support services and programming to help soldiers and veterans in both militaries.

Countering Iran's Nuclear Ambitions and Combating Terrorism

The threats from Iran's radical and dictatorial regime are serious. Iran's export of terrorism and its attempts to violently dominate the Middle East endangers the lives not only its Arab neighbors and all those in Israel of all ethnicities and religions, but also the Jewish people globally. Israel's peace agreements with Egypt, Jordan, the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco are important steps in the path of changing the environmental conditions in the region, but Iran stands violently against them. We need to build upon these agreements to include joint military and security partnerships within the region, to encourage expansion of relationships between Israel and its partners to mutual aid,



development, business relations, security, training, and support. We need to build off the American engagement model with American Sunni and Shia Muslims to help bring Shia nations to the table for peace and partnerships as well. Working from the peaceful relationships between American Sunni and Shia Muslims can show a path to address lasting Israeli security and bring reconciliation of the Sunni-Shia conflict that has extended from the death of the Prophet Mohammad to today's chief representatives of that conflict, Saudi Arabia and Iran. Moving adversaries and opponents of Israel to partners may be an ambitious proposition but it's ultimately the path for sustainable and practical peace.

How the Two State Solution ties into both Issues

The previous administration worked against the prospects of achieving a two-state solution. We have an opportunity, with the diverse political coalition in Israel and the current American Presidential Administration to get us back onto the path of peace in our time, since the end of the Clinton Administration. The opportunity will take pragmatic realism, cooperation, and a re-establishment of the humanity of both Israeli and Palestinian citizens.

We need to work through the Palestinian citizenry to demand an end to violence, as most directly represented by the domination of Gaza by Hamas and the lack of democratic leadership with the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. The leadership has not served the citizens and we need to engage civil society as a significant part of bringing the Palestinian populace back to the commitment of achieving statehood peacefully and without presenting a threat to Israel's safety. The international community can be a partner in the peace process but attempting to impose statehood by going unilaterally to international bodies or pursuing legal claims against Israel will not lead to statehood. The good faith act of the Palestinians returning genuinely to the negotiating table with Israel is the first step back towards peace, together with the Palestinian leadership stopping practices which incite or incentivize terrorism and undermine confidence in their commitment to peace, such as the Palestinian Authority's continuing payments to the families of those who perpetrate acts of terrorism.

Israel too should demonstrate its commitment to achieving a two-state solution by stopping construction of new settlements on land in the West Bank where the Palestinians hope to establish their future state. Israeli leaders should end talks of unilateral annexation, which also do not create a climate for peace and reconciliation. The development of a peaceful partnership will ultimately lead to development opportunities that allow Israelis and Palestinians not only to live next to each other, but to do so in peace.

An additional part of achieving peace between Israelis and Palestinians must include mutual economic, educational and health programming that can improve the overall quality of life. Building a common empathy through cross-collaboration activities will create an environment of mutual humanity and shared sustainability between the two populations.

Parameters for engagement with Iran

Re-establishment of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is critical to immediate and lasting security, but only with the following additional components:

- Any agreement must be at least 25 years in length, including enforceable restrictions on Iranian development of military-use nuclear technology and ballistic missiles
- Iranian support for terrorist proxy organizations must end
- The P5+1 group should be expanded to include a Sunni Arab nation partner, as a sign of cooperation within the region to hold Iran and the P5+1 partners accountable.
- An agreement should include recognition of shared human rights and for the respect of sovereignty and humanity of the Israeli state, the Iranian state, and the nations within the region as a whole



While working towards those objectives, I will support the passage of the Stop Iranian Drone Act and the Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act and the Hamas International Financing Prevention Act. We must reduce the tools of terror against the Israeli people and the cycle of regional instability.

My approach to these issues may appear idealistic, but as a member of Congress I will put in the work behind my policy positions to promote greater cooperation and reconciliation among Israel, the Palestinians, and the rest of the Middle East region. Only by fostering hope, defeating terror, and improving the lives of ordinary people with a climate of trust, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence will there be an opportunity to resolve these conflicts.

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JEWISH INSIDER



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MyKale (Kelly) L. Garrett currently serves as Mayor of Lathrup Village; the first African American to hold this role. Prior to her ascension to Mayor, Mrs. Garrett was Mayor Pro Tem from 2013 to 2017. Along with her work as a public servant, Mrs. Garrett is passionate about serving the community through charitable service. Her past board leadership has included Chair/President of the Southfield Lathrup Democratic Club, and the Family-Centered Care Advisory Council at Children's Hospital of Michigan. She presently serves on the Board of the national non-profit Mothering Justice (positions held: Board President and Board Secretary) and Subsidiary Advisory Board Member for Community Health at St. John/Ascension Hospital. Most recently, she was appointed by Governor Whitmer to the Michigan State Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity. Throughout her political career, Mrs. Garrett has received numerous awards. The awards include the 2021 SIsStars Leadership Award from the National BLaack Women's Roundtable, the WONder Woman Award from the Women Officials Network, the 2014 Michigan Chronicle Woman of Excellence Award and the National Congress of Black Women – Oakland County Chapter, the Woman Pioneer of Distinction Award and honored by the Women's Campaign School of Yale University for leadership. Mrs. Garrett has dedicated herself to the professional and educational development of youth in and around her community. She has given a multitude of motivational addresses at various educational establishments. Mrs. Garrett also delivered the keynote address at Wayne State University for The Golden Key International Honor Society Induction ceremony, while also becoming an honorary inductee based on her leadership and service in the community. In addition to her political role, Mrs. Garrett is the Michigan State Director for National Domestic Workers Alliance/Care in Action. Care in Action is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group dedicated to fighting for dignity and fairness for the millions of domestic workers in the United States, most of whom are women of color and immigrant women. Mrs. Garrett holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Rochester University and a Master of Information Systems from University of Phoenix. For more information, please call **248-667-8900** or voteforkellygarrett@gmail.com.

