



## **Israel Policy Paper**

The United States and Israel have been allies for more than 60 years, and this relationship, born of common values, must continue to be strong. Our friendship is rooted in our mutual respect for democratic values, human rights and religious freedom. I am a strong supporter of our relationship with Israel, and I believe that the U.S. should continue to support and strengthen Israel and her democratically elected leaders, with an eye toward maintaining her security in an unstable part of the world.

### **The Israeli / Palestinian Peace Process**

In 2009, I had the opportunity to visit Israel as a member of a bipartisan delegation of American political leaders. During that week-long trip, I had the privilege of meeting with members of the Knesset, Israeli political party leaders, business leaders, and leaders of various non-governmental associations. This visit occurred shortly after the 2009 elections and the country was in the midst of change.

Traveling throughout the country during this time, visiting Jerusalem, Sderot, Golan Heights, Tel Aviv, and other locations, was a remarkable and eye-opening experience. While I had read about the conflict between Israel and Hamas, it was only in Sderot that I saw first hand the danger in which many Israelis live each day. I will never forget the bomb shelter that was built at the site of a children's playground after children had been killed by Hamas rockets. The families in Sderot live each day in danger. While I had long been a supporter of Israel, it is perhaps this image that stays with me more than any other. No family should live in fear of terrorists. A safe and secure Israel must be protected; my policy positions below lay out how I believe we best achieve that security.

I believe that Israel has the right to defend herself from her neighbors and from terrorist organizations. I also believe that the best path to long-term peace for Israel is a two-state solution – one a secure Jewish state of Israel and the other, an independent, demilitarized Palestine. To achieve this outcome, the U.S. must play a role in the peace process, but lasting peace will only emerge from direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians themselves. I support and I believe that the U.S. must support direct bilateral negotiations.

Successful negotiations can be achieved only with legitimate and pragmatic Palestinian leaders. I am deeply concerned about the new unity government with Hamas, and I oppose any aid or support to Hamas. I believe that Hamas ought to recognize Israel's right to exist and renounce violence before it can be a pragmatic negotiating partner for Israel.

## **Military Assistance**

I believe that the U.S. must continue to support Israel with military and economic assistance, which is paramount to her survival. The U.S. benefits as well by supporting a strong ally with expertise in the region. Providing for the security of Israel is providing for U.S. security. As a member of Congress, I will vote for continued foreign aid to Israel and ensure that the 10-year, \$30 billion agreement in principle for U.S. military and security assistance for Israel is upheld. In fact, that number may need to be increased as threats increase in the dangerous neighborhood in which Israel lives. While we all hope that the changes in governance in countries directly adjacent to Israel provide for positive and dramatic democratic and civil rights advances, we must closely monitor the situation with the hope that regimes in league with terrorist organizations do not fill the void. Already, we have seen that what was once a relatively tight and secure southern border of Israel, made possible with Egypt's military assistance, has now become porous and allows the transport of terrorists and weaponry into Gaza. Israel uses its resources effectively, but this new southern front increases the threats to Israel's security.

In addition to military and security aid for Israel, I believe our two nations can enhance its relationship in mutual strategies for economic development which benefit the stability of both countries. Israel's economic strength is rooted in technological innovation, and its advances can help to address our own economic concerns. For example, Israel's advances in irrigation and water treatment are directly applicable to Arizona's economic and growth lifeblood. I also support recently proposed, bipartisan legislation in Congress that would increase American jobs by granting Israeli investors access to the E-2 visa which would encourage needed investment in U.S. entities.

## **Iran**

A nuclear Iran is one of the most significant threats to Israel, the Middle East, and the world. I believe that U.S. policy should be aimed at stopping Iran from gaining nuclear weapons and that we should publicly and privately call on Iran to live up to its obligations under the non-proliferation treaty. I support the Obama administration's policies of leaving all options on the table and pushing a strong case for increased sanctions against the Iranian regime. We must not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons capability.

The U.S. should work with our allies to ensure that Iran faces real consequences if it continues to seek to secure nuclear weapons. I support the existing sanctions against Iran, and would support additional measures, including sanctions against Iran's Central Bank and sanctions against businesses that transfer certain goods, services and technologies to Iran.

However, passing sanctions and implementing sanctions are two separate actions. While Congress passed the toughest sanctions to date, the Administration must now ensure that the sanctions are implemented fully and as quickly as possible. As a member of Congress, I will be aggressive in working with the Administration and its agencies to move forward on every possible front to bring these sanctions to bear upon Iran. In Arizona, I supported HB 2151, which was signed into law by Governor Napolitano in 2008. The bill divests our state pension funds from companies that have holdings or business interests in Iran. I worked with Representative

Paton to craft the language of the bill and get it passed. The bill was patterned after my Sudan divestment bill, which had passed earlier that year.

### **Arab Spring**

I am hopeful to see the end of authoritarian regimes and the glimmer of democracy take root across the Arab world. It is too soon to predict the outcome of the struggles in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Syria and Yemen. The Middle East remains a volatile region where radical factions can gain power and destabilize Israel's hard-won security. During this time, the United States must encourage coexistence with Israel, support democratic ideals and human rights, and oppose further violence.

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