

MA3Grassroots Rooting Booklet



Israel and Palestine

Midterm Congressional Election

November 2018

Router Information	
Name: _____	Date: _____
Email: _____	Town of Residence _____
Phone: _____	_____
Event: _____	_____

Bill information and instructions for booklet submission are included

Question 1:

The United States has a very close relationship with the state of Israel. We give the Israeli government \$3.8 billion every year in military assistance, more than we give to any other country in the world, despite the fact that Israel has a robust economy and is one of the largest manufacturers of military equipment in the world. * Our aid has been unconditional. The "Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act, H.R. 4391, prohibits U.S. assistance to Israel from being used to support the military detention, interrogation, or ill treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international humanitarian law. If elected, would you vote yes or no for H.R. 4391?

Candidate _____

Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___

With Amendment _____

Candidate _____

Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___

With Amendment _____

H.R. 4391 BILL INFO:

Sponsor: Rep. Betty McCollum

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4391>

Bill Summary:

This bill prohibits U.S. assistance to Israel from being used to support the military detention, interrogation, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international humanitarian law or the use against Palestinian children of: (1) torture, inhumane, or degrading treatment; (2) physical violence or psychological abuse; (3) incommunicado or administrative detention; (4) solitary confinement; (5) denial of parental or legal access during interrogations; or (6) force or coercion to obtain a confession.

The Department of State shall annually submit to Congress: (1) a certification that none of the funds obligated or expended in the previous fiscal year for assistance to Israel have been used to support any of such activities; or (2) if the State Department cannot make such certification, a report describing each activity and the amount of funds used by Israel in violation of this bill.

The State Department shall include in each annual report on the barring of development assistance to a country that engages in human rights violations a description of the nature and extent of detention, interrogation, or ill-treatment of Palestinian children by Israeli military forces or police in violation of international humanitarian law.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_industry_of_Israel (e.g.)

Question 2:

The Israel Anti-Boycott Act, H.R. 1697, would amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to prohibit participation in boycotts against Israel fostered by international governmental organizations, in particular the United Nations and the European Union. The original bill, introduced last year, would have imposed a \$250,000 civil penalty and a maximum criminal penalty of \$1 million and/or 20 years imprisonment on violators.

An amended version, submitted on March 23, 2018, dropped the jail sentence but keeps the monetary penalties. The amended version no longer penalizes individuals, unless they act in an official capacity as owners, officers, directors or employees of an organization. The amended version, however, would still apply to one-person businesses, such as a lawyer in a solo practice.

The ACLU, which strongly opposed the original version of the bill, has written that “the amended bill still unconstitutionally targets political boycotts for criminal penalties. The ACLU therefore continues to oppose the bill as an infringement of fundamental First

Amendment rights. If elected would you vote yes or no for the Israel Anti-Boycott Act, H.R. 1697?

Candidate _____

Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___

With Amendment _____

Candidate _____

Yes ___ No ___ Abstain ___

With Amendment _____

H.R. 1697 BILL INFO:

Sponsor: Rep. Peter Roskam

Revised bill, submitted March, 2018:

<https://www.cardin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Amended%20Israel%20Anti-Boycott%20Act.pdf>

There is no summary of the revised bill at the <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/> or <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1697/>

Original bill submitted March, 2017:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1697->

Summary of the original Bill:

This bill declares that Congress: (1) opposes the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution of March 24, 2016, which urges countries to pressure companies to divest from, or break contracts with, Israel; and (2) encourages full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 through enhanced, government wide, coordinated U.S.-Israel scientific and technological cooperation in civilian areas.

The bill amends the Export Administration Act of 1979 to declare that it shall be U.S. policy to oppose: requests by foreign countries to impose restrictive practices or boycotts against other countries friendly to the United States or against U.S. persons; and restrictive trade practices or boycotts fostered or imposed by an international governmental organization **, or requests to impose such practices or boycotts, against Israel.

The bill prohibits any U.S. person engaged interstate or foreign commerce from supporting: any request by a foreign country to impose any boycott against a country

that is friendly to the United States and that is not itself the object of any form of boycott pursuant to United States law or regulation, or any boycott fostered or imposed by any international governmental organization against Israel or any request by any international governmental organization to impose such a boycott.

The bill amends the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 to include as a reason for the Export-Import Bank to deny credit applications for the export of goods and services between the United States and foreign countries, opposition to policies and actions that are politically motivated and are intended to penalize or otherwise limit commercial relations specifically with citizens or residents of Israel, entities organized under the laws of Israel, or the government of Israel.

** The bill specifies (p. 13, LL 5-7) that “the term ‘international governmental organization’ includes the United Nations and the European Union;”

Booklet Submission:

Online copy: Please either scan your booklet as a PDF or fill out a booklet as a word document and email to

MA3Grassroots@gmail.com

Physical copy: A PO Box # will be available shortly for physical mailing.