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Congressional Monitor

THE 113TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION:

3 JANUARY 2013–3 JANUARY 2014



COMPILED BY PAUL KAROLYI

Published annually, the Congressional Monitor summarizes the bills and resolutions pertinent to Palestine, Israel, or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict that were introduced during the previous session of Congress. The monitor identifies major legislative themes related to the Palestine issue as well as initiators of specific legislation, their priorities, the range of their concerns, and their attitudes toward regional actors. It is part of a wider project of the Institute for Palestine Studies that includes the Congressional Monitor Database at congressionalmonitor.org. The database contains all relevant legislation from 2001 to the present (the 107th through the 113th Congress) and is updated on an ongoing basis. Material in this compilation is drawn from thomas.loc.gov, the official legislative site of the Library of Congress, which includes a detailed primer on the U.S. legislative process entitled "How Our Laws Are Made."

The first session of the 113th Congress opened on 1/3/13 and closed exactly 1 year later. In that time, the 535 legislators met for a total of 316 days (156 for the Senate, 160 for the House of Representatives) and considered over 6,700 measures.

The makeup of the 113th Congress was determined by national elections held in the autumn of 2012, in which the 2 main parties maintained their respective majorities, the Democrats in the Senate and the Republicans in the House. The Democrats gained 2 more Senate seats for a total of 55 (including 2 independent senators who caucus with the Democrats) and the Republicans had 234 members in the House despite losing 8 seats.

A total of 124 measures pertinent to Palestine, Israel, or the wider Arab-Israeli conflict were introduced in the opening session of the 113th Congress, a significant increase over the 79 highlighted in the last *Congressional Monitor* (see *JPS* 168). Some of these measures carried provisions that were directly relevant, and others either centered on related subjects or initiated debates whose contents were germane.

Three main factors account for the increase, one structural and two circumstantial. As a general rule, a larger number of measures are introduced during an opening session of Congress because of the protracted gestation period necessary for each measure to pass through the requisite chambers and committees, and also because such measures may carry over to the second session (while the converse is not true, i.e., measures in the second session may not be carried over to the opening

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session of the subsequent Congress). In addition, the escalation of the conflict in Syria and the renewed crisis in Egypt following the military overthrow of Pres. Mohamed Morsi in 7/2013 combined to focus the attention of legislators more intently on the Arab-Israeli arena.

Overview of Legislation

Congressional measures fall into 2 broad categories: bills and joint resolutions that carry the force of law if passed and non-binding measures that, if passed, merely state the views of Congress on a particular issue (simple and concurrent resolutions). Since bills and joint resolutions can become law, they are more consequential, and fewer of them pass. Simple and concurrent resolutions, which cannot become law, typically “recognize,” “urge,” “encourage,” or “support,” and they serve as important indicators of the mood of Congress. Of the 124 relevant measures under discussion, 85 were bills or joint resolutions, of which 5 passed into law, and the remaining 39 were simple or concurrent resolutions (non-binding), only 10 of which passed. Of a total of 15 measures which passed this session, there were 3 large appropriations or authorizations bills, 5 resolutions on Iran, 3 resolutions commemorating Jewish or Israeli history, and 4 largely unrelated bills and resolutions that only covered relevant issues tangentially.

During this opening session, the 113th Congress considered 26 measures which were largely but not completely unrelated to Israel, Palestine, or the wider region; of these, 20 were bills or joint resolutions and the remaining 6 were simple or concurrent resolutions. Of the total 26, half, or 13, were annual authorizations or appropriations bills. Authorizations bills provide the legal authority for government agencies, programs, and depts., and they set funding policies, while appropriations bills approve the funding and transfer of monies to the relevant bodies. It is with such annual measures that Congress manages U.S. government expenditure, restricting or facilitating administration policies. Military assistance to Israel and Egypt, economic and security aid to Palestine, as well as U.S. contributions to relevant international organizations in the region were among the salient issues addressed in these measures.

Of the 13 authorizations and appropriations bills, 3 passed into law: the **Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013** (*H.R. 933 of 3/6/13), extending the entire federal budget from the 2012 fiscal year (FY 2012) through the end of FY 2013; the **Continuing Appropriations Act of 2014** (*H.R. 2775 of 7/22/13), ending the 10/2013 government shutdown and appropriating funds for the first three and a half months of FY 2014; and the **National Defense Authorization Act** (*H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13) authorizing Defense Dept. spending in FY 2014, including joint missile defense programs with Israel, crisis response activities relating to Syria, and congressional oversight measures on Iran.

Apart from appropriations and authorizations bills outlined above, the remaining 13 of the largely unrelated measures focused on a wide variety of issues, ranging from restrictions on executive authority (H.R. 3065 of 9/9/13 and H.J. Res. 60 of 9/11/13) and U.S.-Argentina relations (H. Res. 291 of 7/9/13) to the energy sector (H.R. 2231 of 6/6/13), International Press Freedom Day (*S. Res. 143 of 5/16/13), and Greek independence (*S. Res. 84 of 3/20/13). Here, provisions relevant to Israel, the Palestinians, or the Arab-Israeli conflict played a small part. In some cases,

Israel, Palestine, and the Arab-Israeli conflict were not even an implicit subject of the measure under consideration but they were brought up during the debate. In others, they were the subject of amendments to these measures which were proposed but not attached. Congress passed 5 of these 13 measures: 2 bills, 2 simple resolutions, and 1 concurrent resolution.

Major Trends

Overall, the priorities of the 113th Congress with respect to Israel, the Palestinians, and the Arab-Israeli conflict were similar to those of its predecessors. Therefore, the present discussion of the 124 relevant measures will be broken down into the 3 broad thematic categories established in the previous monitor: (1) those directly or indirectly benefitting Israel; (2) those serving Israel's interests by undermining its adversaries in the region; (3) those managing U.S. responses to the recent turmoil in Egypt and Syria.

BENEFITTING ISRAEL

Just over a third, or 45, of the 124 measures under discussion included provisions benefitting Israel, either directly or indirectly (a proportion consistent with that of recent years), of which 35 were bills and 10 simple or concurrent resolutions. The 45 measures can be further broken down into 4 subcategories reflecting specific legislative priorities.

Awarding Military Support: The 14 bills in this category contained provisions that would either transfer military aid to Israel or boost bilateral military cooperation in some way. Included here are 10 appropriations and authorizations bills, among them the 3 that passed into law. Of the remaining 4 bills in this category, 3 would increase support for the Iron Dome missile defense system (H.R. 1130 of 3/13/13, H.R. 2717 of 7/17/13, and H.R. 2701 of 7/16/13), and 1 would expand U.S. capacity for preserving Israel's "qualitative military edge" (H.R. 1992 of 5/15/13).

Strengthening the U.S.-Israeli Alliance: The 13 bills and 3 concurrent resolutions in this category contained provisions that would strengthen the alliance between the U.S. and Israel and/or boost bilateral cooperation. Of these, 6 measures pertained to the relocation of the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem (e.g. H.R. 104 of 1/3/13). Another 4 bills in this category carried provisions designed to facilitate Israel's entry into the U.S. visa waiver program (e.g. H.R. 938 of 3/4/13), under which member states' citizens enjoy an easing of U.S. travel restrictions. The remaining measures in this category would bolster Israel's position in international forums (S. 1313 of 7/17/13, S. Con. Res. 7 of 3/13/13, and H. Con. Res. 23 of 3/13/13) and expand energy-related scientific cooperation to include natural gas programs (S. 1491 of 9/10/13, H.R. 3677 of 12/9/13, and H.R. 3683 of 12/9/13). None of the measures in this category passed.

Commemorating Israeli and Jewish History: There were 6 bills in this category, along with 3 simple resolutions and 1 concurrent resolution. Two of the bills would provide direct assistance to Holocaust survivors in the U.S. (S. 999 of 5/21/13 and H.R. 2064 of 5/21/13), 2 others would create a new legal avenue for some Holocaust survivors to seek damages (S. 1393 of 7/30/13 and H.R. 1505 of 4/11/13), and the remaining 2 would expand Holocaust-related education programs (S. 925 of 5/9/13 and H.R. 1477 of 4/11/13). The object of the 3 simple resolutions was the

recognition of an American-Jewish organization (*S. Res. 299 of 11/19/13) and of heroic actions during the Holocaust (*S. Res. 227 of 9/17/13 and *S. Res. 290 of 11/11/13). The concurrent resolution would have marked the anniversary of Israel's independence (H. Con. Res. 30 of 4/10/13). All 3 simple resolutions in this category passed, but none of the other measures did.

Displaying Ceremonial Support: Each of the 3 simple and concurrent resolutions and the 2 bills in this category would have offered some type of ceremonial support or recognition for Israeli citizens or policies. Only 1 simple resolution here passed, commending Greece's relations with Israel and Muslim countries on the anniversary of Greece's independence (*S. Res. 84 of 3/20/13). The other measures in this category would award Israeli president Shimon Peres a Congressional Gold Medal (H.R. 2939 of 8/1/13 and S. 1456 of 8/1/13) and urge continued support for Israel against its adversaries (H. Res. 98 of 3/5/13 and S. Con. Res. 27 of 11/21/13).

UNDERMINING ISRAEL'S ADVERSARIES

Almost one third, or 38, of the 124 measures under discussion included provisions reflecting this legislative priority, of which 19 were bills and 19 simple and concurrent resolutions. They centered on Iran, with a substantial focus on the sanctions program, and on the Palestinians, with whom the U.S. has a historically complex relationship.

During this legislative session, Congress considered 30 measures related to Iran—15 bills and 15 simple and concurrent resolutions. As in previous years, Congressional efforts to pressure Iran were frequently justified on the basis of Israeli security concerns. Iran garnered intense congressional attention during the session as new facets of the U.S.-Iran relationship emerged in the wake of Iranian president Hassan Ruhani's election in June 2013 and the ensuing high-level negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. In light of those developments, legislative measures on Iran in the first session of the 113th Congress can be divided into 2 main subcategories.

Managing Sanctions: Although Congress passed no new measures strengthening sanctions against Iran, the subject was one of perpetual interest to many legislators, with some 15 measures either referring to or focusing on sanctions—11 bills and 4 simple and concurrent resolutions. Measures of note in this category included the **Nuclear Iran Prevention Act** (H.R. 850 of 2/27/13) and the **Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act** (S. 1881 of 12/19/13), which served as the main vehicles of Congressional support for new sanctions in their respective chambers.

Influencing Diplomacy: Both in the lead-up to the election of President Ruhani on 6/4/13 and throughout the ensuing period of multilateral negotiations, Congress sought to influence and shape the U.S.-Iran relationship in a variety of ways. Among them were the 15 measures in this category—4 bills and 11 simple resolutions—urging the Obama administration to take specific actions on the nuclear negotiations (e.g. S. Res. 252 of 9/24/13), calling for political changes in Iran (e.g. *S. Res. 154 of 5/23/13), requesting the release of certain political prisoners in Iran (e.g. S. Res. 312 of 12/9/13), increasing congressional oversight of the Defense Dept. (*H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13), and putting forward parameters for the nuclear negotiations that would effectively restrict the process (e.g. H.R. 3292 of 10/15/13). None of the bills and 4 resolutions passed.

The remaining 8 measures in this rubric focused or carried provisions on Palestinian affairs. Of the 4 resolutions, 3 reiterated Congress's support for a two-state solution (e.g. H. Res. 238 of 5/23/13) and 1 called on Palestinian Authority (PA) Pres. Mahmud Abbas to "clarify a presidential succession

plan” (H. Res. 177 of 4/23/13). Of the 4 bills, 3 were large appropriations and authorizations bills of which security assistance to the PA and economic support for Palestinian society formed only a small part (e.g. *H.R. 933 of 3/6/13). The last bill, titled “The Palestinian Accountability Act,” would institute a series of conditions and restrictions on further assistance to Palestinians (H.R. 1337 of 3/21/13). One of the bills, and none of the resolutions, passed.

REGIONAL REACTION – SYRIA

The growing conflict in Syria, especially the Syrian government’s alleged use of chemical weapons on 8/21/13, led to a sharp spike in congressional measures aimed at Syria in comparison with previous years. Each of the 33 measures here—26 bills and joint resolutions and 7 simple and concurrent resolutions—sought to define the nature of the U.S. response to the conflict. Because the administration’s policy on Syria was evolving throughout the year, many of the 26 bills in this category were comprehensive measures addressing multiple ongoing policy questions. These included: whether or not to provide assistance to Syrian rebel groups (e.g. S. 856 of 5/6/13 and H.R. 5303 of 6/25/13); how much humanitarian assistance to offer neighboring countries (e.g. *H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13); whether the U.S. should facilitate regime change in Syria (e.g. S. 617 of 3/19/13); and, the question that garnered the most media attention, whether or not to authorize military force in response to Syria’s alleged use of chemical weapons (e.g. S. J. Res. 21 of 9/6/13). Of the 7 resolutions, 3 called for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to put human rights abusers in Syria on trial (e.g. S. Res. 219 of 9/9/13), 2 urged a peaceful resolution to the conflict (e.g. H. Res. 223 of 5/17/13), 1 commented on the president’s right to initiate military action (H. Con. Res. 40 of 6/20/13), and 1 decried the lack of press freedom in Syria (*S. Res. 143 of 5/16/13). In this category, 1 of the simple resolutions and 3 of the bills passed.

REGIONAL REACTION – EGYPT

As with Syria, the turbulent political situation in Egypt, particularly the military overthrow of Pres. Mohamed Morsi in 7/2013, accounted for the increase in the number of congressional measures considered in this session. The 19 measures in this category—18 bills and 1 simple resolution—sought to clarify or influence the evolving U.S. relationship with a changing Egypt. In almost every case, the measures call for the protection of Israel’s interests with provisions to ensure Egypt’s continued adherence to the two countries’ 1979 peace treaty. Of the 19 measures, 5 bills and 1 resolution would either prohibit unconditionally any U.S. assistance to Egypt or urge the prohibition of such assistance in whole or in part (e.g. H.R. 276 of 1/15/13), 11 bills would condition or obstruct aid to Egypt (e.g. H.R. 416 of 1/25/13), and 2 bills were simply vehicles for Egypt-related amendments that were proposed, but not attached (e.g. S. 1243 of 6/27/13). Ultimately, only 2 bills passed, with minimal content on Egypt.

Notes on Legislative Procedure

For a bill to become law, it must be agreed to in identical form by both houses and signed by the president. The president may refuse to sign a bill, and thus veto it, but the veto can be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote in each chamber. If Congress is not in session, the

president can veto a bill simply by not taking action for 10 days after its presentation (“pocket veto”). Simple or concurrent resolutions have no legal force if passed. Simple resolutions (designated H./S. Res.) are debated in only 1 chamber and concurrent resolutions (designated H./S. Con. Res.) in both; resolutions require a simple majority to pass. After a bill or resolution is introduced, it is automatically referred to the appropriate committee; in the majority of cases (83 of 124 measures in this session), it goes no further.

Understanding the Congressional Monitor

Measures are listed in the order in which they were first introduced, with a brief title provided after the date. The second line of each entry provides the bill or resolution number, the name and affiliation of the original sponsor, and the number of cosponsors.

For many bills and resolutions, a “see also” entry has been added to refer readers to similar or related measures.

The “last major action” entry indicates where the bill or resolution stood at the end of the first session of the 113th Congress in 1/2014.

Due to the large number of bills and resolutions introduced this session and also due to space limitations, summaries are provided only for the large authorizations and appropriations bills that were passed. In-depth summaries of all bills and resolutions are available at **congressionalmonitor.org**.

KEY:

- * ——— Denotes a bill that became law or a resolution that passed
- H.A. ——— House Amendment
- H. Con. Res. ——— House Concurrent Resolution
- H. J. Res. ——— House Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- H.R. ——— House Bill (having the force of law)
- H. Res. ——— Simple House Resolution
- S. ——— Senate Bill (having the force of law)
- S.A. ——— Senate Amendment
- S. Con. Res. ——— Senate Concurrent Resolution
- S. J. Res. ——— Senate Joint Resolution (having the force of law)
- S. Res. ——— Simple Senate Resolution
- Voice vote: Vote taken verbally and therefore not recorded
- Vote tally: Yea-Nay-Present

3 January 2013: Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act of 2013

H.R. 104, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), 24 cosponsors.

This bill would condition 50% of the funding of the State Dept. budget on the successful relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem no later than 1/1/15. It would also convey that Congress regards Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel.

See also: H.R. 252 of 1/15/13 and S. 604 of 3/19/13.

Last major action: 2/25/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Middle East and North Africa.

15 January 2013: Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act of 2013

H.R. 252, Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), no cosponsors.

This bill was formally dropped in cmte., but unofficially combined with H.R. 104 of 1/3/13 (above). Worded almost identically, both bills called for the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

See also: H.R. 104 of 1/3/13 and S. 604 of 3/19/13.

Last major action: 2/25/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Middle East and North Africa.

15 January 2013: To prohibit U.S. assistance to the country of Egypt

H.R. 276, Vern Buchanan (R-FL), 22 cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit any federal dept. or agency from making any funds available in assistance to Egypt after FY 2013.

Last major action: 1/15/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

15 January 2013: Visa Waiver for Israel Act of 2013

H.R. 300, Brad Sherman (D-CA), 76 cosponsors.

This bill would waive admission requirements and admit Israel into the U.S. visa waiver program if the government of Israel, inter alia, “made every reasonable effort, without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel, to ensure that reciprocal privileges are extended to all U.S. citizens.”

The visa waiver program allows citizens of countries that maintain a nonimmigrant visa refusal rate below 3% to enjoy reduced limitations on their entry into the U.S. “Nonimmigrant refusals” refers to the rate at which American immigration officers turn down applicants for visas. Israel’s nonimmigrant visa refusal rate was 5.4% at the time of this bill’s introduction, meaning that around 5 of every 100 Israelis who applied for visas to enter the U.S. were denied.

The bill’s announcement drew criticism from the Arab American community on the grounds that Israeli immigration authorities discriminate against Arab Americans seeking to enter Israel. The pro-Israel group J Street also opposed this bill, stating in a 4/15/13 press release that it was “deeply concerned that this provision would—and appears expressly intended to—codify in U.S. law an acceptance of Israel’s reportedly frequent denial, often without explanation, of entry to U.S. citizens of Palestinian, Arab, or Muslim origin seeking to lawfully enter Israel or Israeli-controlled territory.”

See also: S. 266 of 2/7/13, H.R. 938 of 3/4/13, and S. 462 of 3/5/13.

Last major action: 2/28/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Immigration and Border Security.

15 January 2013: To provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia

H.R. 301, Frank R. Wolf (R-VA), 72 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to appoint a special envoy to promote religious freedom of minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia. With an annual budget of \$1 m. through 2018, the envoy would engage diplomatically with foreign governments to monitor religious persecution and promote the rights of minorities.

It lists the following “priority countries” for the envoy to focus on: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

At the annual Christians United for Israel (CUFI) conference lobbying day on 7/24/13, the organization announced a new initiative meant to promote the rights of religious minorities internationally, with support for the bill at its center.

See also: companion measure S. 653 of 3/22/13.

Last major action: 9/18/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 402–22.

***21 January 2013: No Budget, No Pay Act of 2013**

H.R. 325, Dave Camp (R-MI), 1 cosponsor.

This bill conditions the salaries of all members of Congress on their ability to pass a concurrent budget resolution for FY 2014 on the proper schedule. Failure to meet the deadline would trigger this bill, redirecting members’ salaries to an escrow fund. There was 1 relevant amendment to this bill.

S.A. 9, Rand Paul (R-KY), submitted on 1/31/13, 1 cosponsor.

See similar measure S. 201 of 1/31/13 for a summary of this amendment, which would add restrictions on military aid to Egypt. The amendment failed by a vote of 19–79.

Last major action: 2/4/13 signed into law by the president. (1/31/13 passed in Senate by yea-nay vote, 64–34; 1/23/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 285–144.)

25 January 2013: Egypt Accountability and Democracy Promotion Act

H.R. 416, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 20 cosponsors.

Under this bill, for any aid to be disbursed to Egypt, the secretary of state would have to certify the following conditions every 6 months: (1) that no foreign terrorist organization, or its affiliates, is in control of the Egyptian government or serving in a policy-making position; (2) that Egypt is adhering to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel; (3) that Egypt is implementing legal reforms to protect its citizens’ human rights; (4) that demonstrable steps are taken to destroy the smuggling networks in the Sinai.

The bill would also require regular follow-up reporting to Congress on Egypt’s continued performance in these areas and recertification from the secretary of state every 6 months.

Last major action: 1/25/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

31 January 2013: A bill to prohibit the sale, lease, transfer, retransfer, or delivery of F-16 aircraft, M1 tanks, or certain other defense articles or services to the Government of Egypt

S. 201, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill would halt the sale, lease, transfer, retransfer, or delivery of F-16 aircraft, M1 tanks, or other defense articles or services to the government of Egypt.

On the same day he introduced this bill, Sen. Paul proposed a similar measure as an amendment to *H.R. 325 of 1/21/13, a bill that was considered to have gathered a lot of positive momentum and one that eventually passed.

See also: similar measure S.A. 9 to *H.R. 325 of 1/21/13 and H. Res. 87 of 2/27/13.

Last major action: 2/4/13 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

31 January 2013: A bill to restrict the sale, lease, transfer, retransfer, or delivery of F-16 aircraft, M1 tanks, or certain other defense articles or services to the Government of Egypt

S. 207, James Inhofe (R-OK), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would condition the transfer of F-16 aircraft, M1 tanks, or other defense articles or services to the government of Egypt on a presidential certification confirming that Egypt is adhering to the 1979 peace treaty with Israel, providing proper embassy security, and ending the “systematic exclusion and silencing of all official minority political opposition.”

See also: S.A. 9 to *H.R. 325 of 1/21/13, S. 201 of 1/31/13, and H. Res. 87 of 2/27/13.

Last major action: 1/31/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

****6 February 2013: Responsible Helium Administration and Stewardship Act***

H.R. 527, Doc Hastings (R-WA), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would complete the privatization of the federal helium reserve, initiated by the Helium Privatization Act of 1996.

It is not directly relevant to Israel or the Palestinians except for 1 amendment, which was proposed by Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) during a cmte. markup session on 4/26/13. The amendment, which would forbid exports from the U.S. federal helium reserve to Syria, Iran, North Korea, and any party likely to transport it to those countries, was not attached to the final bill.

Last major action: 10/2/13 signed into law by the president. (9/19/13 passed in Senate by yea-nay vote, 97–2; 4/26/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 394–1.)

7 February 2013: To provide for the inclusion of Israel in the visa waiver program, and for other purposes

S. 266, Ron Wyden (D-OR), 1 cosponsor.

This bill would include Israel in the U.S. visa waiver program if the secretary of homeland security certifies that Israel has complied with the program’s requirements, except the nonimmigrant refusal rate, and made “every reasonable effort, without jeopardizing Israel’s security” to provide reciprocal privileges to U.S. citizens.

See similar measure H.R. 300 of 1/15/13 for more on the visa waiver program.

Last major action: 2/7/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on the Judiciary.

16 February 2013: National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2013

H.R. 761, Mark Amodei (R-NV), 57 cosponsors.

This bill would reorganize the established processes for obtaining mining contracts in the U.S. and adjust the legal framework that regulates mining. Rep. Cicilline (D-RI) proposed a relevant

amendment to this bill that would have forbidden federal agencies from awarding mining permits to any company with Iranian or Chinese ownership interests, and to any person or company convicted of violating the sanctions on Iran. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 197–229, with 6 abstentions.

Last major action: 9/18/13 passed House by yea-nay vote, 246–178.

27 February 2013: Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013

H.R. 850, Edward R. Royce (R-CA), 378 cosponsors.

In addition to strengthening enforcement of the existing sanctions program, this bill would expand sanctions on Iran's energy and financial sectors and human rights violators. It would also restrict the president's ability to waive existing sanctions, impose sanctions on Iranian mining, and, for the first time, apply secondary sanctions to any entity that maintains commercial ties with Iran. Taken together, these measures constitute the most drastic increase in pressure on Iran that the House considered this session.

Additionally, the bill would enhance congressional oversight of the sanctions program and officially label the Iranian Revolutionary Guard a foreign terrorist organization.

Furthermore, in order to close the "Euro Loophole," this bill would limit Iran's access to its foreign exchange reserves, particularly those held in Euros. That loophole was one of the last ways Iran had been able to circumvent previous U.S. sanctions. The bill would also express Congress's view that the president should pressure European countries to restrict Iran's access to the Euro (see S. 892 of 5/8/13 for more on the "Euro loophole").

In terms of congressional oversight, the bill would direct the secretary of state to submit 2 reports to Congress: one examining the hypothetical timetable for Iran to produce a nuclear weapon and the other analyzing the efficacy of the sanctions program. The bill would also require the president to develop a "national strategy" on Iran which would explore Iranian vulnerabilities and address Iran's economic strategy.

One minor measure included in this bill that is noteworthy for conveying the overall climate in Congress stipulates that the secretary of state should hire a special coordinator for women's human rights and political participation in Iran.

Generating support for the bill was a major focus of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) conference, held on 3/3–3/5, and of NORPAC's lobby day on 5/8, and AIPAC featured the proposed law prominently on its website. Its passage by the House Foreign Affairs Cmte. on 5/22 garnered a supportive note from Israeli PM Netanyahu's office. Over 4,200 attendees lobbied Congress in favor of this bill at the Christians United for Israel (CUFI) annual conference lobbying day (7/24). On 8/23, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs began circulating a petition in support of the bill and urged the Senate to pass it. By mid-October, it had collected over 5,000 signatures and the support of numerous American Jewish organizations.

In a letter addressed to congressional leadership and circulated in the media, a group of Democrats requested a postponement of a vote on the bill from 7/31 to 8/4 in order to provide time for a diplomatic overture to Iran on the inauguration of its new president, Hassan Ruhani. House leadership ignored their efforts and the bill was passed on 7/31. (Following President

Ruhani's address to the UN General Assembly on 9/24, AIPAC sent out a call for reenergized support of this bill.)

While Pres. Obama did not take a public stand on the bill, administration officials commented that the timing of its passage could negatively affect diplomatic efforts. Throughout 10/2013, the administration focused its efforts on delaying the Senate vote on new sanctions. On 10/29, administration staffers met with officials from AIPAC, the Anti-Discrimination League (ADL), and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in order to ask for a 60-day reprieve from lobbying in favor of this bill. At first, the ADL agreed to the temporary break, only to reverse its position on 11/13 after details emerged from the renewed Israeli-Palestinian talks under Secy. Kerry's leadership. AIPAC and the AJC rejected the administration's initiative from the outset.

Though Senate leaders never brought the bill to the floor for consideration, the Senate did consider similar legislation increasing sanctions on Iran. See S. 1197 of 6/20/13 and S. 1881 of 12/19/13 for more.

See also: S.A. 364 on S. Con. Res. 8 of 3/15/13, S. 892 of 5/8/13, S. 1197 of 6/20/13, and S. 1881 of 12/19/13.

Last major action: 7/31/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 400–20, 1 present. (5/22/13 passed by voice vote in House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs).

27 February 2013: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should suspend the delivery of F-16 fighter aircraft, M1 tanks, and other defense articles and defense services to the Government of Egypt

H. Res. 87, Tim Griffin (R-AR), 15 cosponsors.

See also: S.A. 9 to *H.R. 325 of 1/21/13, S. 201 of 1/31/13, and S. 207 of 1/31/13.

Last major action: 2/27/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

28 February 2013: Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Accountability Act of 2013

H.R. 893, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 15 cosponsors.

This bill contains a variety of measures designed to stifle the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, specifically targeting Iran, Syria, and North Korea. The most noteworthy stipulation would direct the president to impose sanctions on any person or organization that transfers certain nuclear, dual use, toxic, or chemical devices to Iran, Syria, and North Korea, or that acquires such devices from them. The sanctions would last 2 years and affect any person/organization making such transfers since 2007.

The bill would also stop any funding in connection with the International Space Station (ISS) and to the Russian Aviation and Space Agency unless the president could certify that Russia was not transferring such weapons to Syria, Iran, or North Korea. The president could make an exception for the safety of individuals on board the ISS.

Furthermore, it would ban any ship from entering a U.S. port if it had any connection to the nuclear programs of the countries cited or if it had been to a port with known connections to those programs in the previous 180 days.

Last major action: 4/8/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Immigration and Border Security.

****28 February 2013: A resolution strongly supporting the full implementation of U.S. and international sanctions on Iran and urging the President to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation***

S. Res. 65, Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 91 cosponsors.

With this resolution, the Senate supported the full implementation of existing U.S. and international sanctions on Iran and urged the president to continue to strengthen enforcement of sanctions legislation. The most noteworthy section of the resolution states that if the government of Israel is compelled to take military action in “legitimate self-defense” against Iran’s nuclear weapons program, the U.S. government “should stand with Israel” and provide support “in accordance with United States law.”

This resolution contains neither an authorization to use force nor a declaration of war, something made explicitly clear in the resolution’s text.

This resolution was a major part of AIPAC’s lobbying effort both before and during the AIPAC conference in 3/2013.

In the initial version of the resolution, the self-defense provision had stronger wording. It urged that the U.S. government should “stand with Israel and provide diplomatic, military, and economic support” if Israel was compelled to take military action. That clause was struck out in a cmte. markup session after provoking opposition from anti-war groups.

On the day of the unanimous vote in the Senate (5/22/13), Sen. Graham discussed the resolution as if it still contained the original language. He summarized its thrust, “if Israel is compelled to take military action in self-defense, the U.S. will stand with Israel and provide diplomatic, military, economic support in its defense of its territory, people, and existence.” In phrasing the bill’s purpose in this way, he removed the legal qualifications and reverted to the mechanical, cause-effect wording that sparked the controversy in the first place.

Last major action: 5/22/13 agreed to in Senate by yea-nay vote, 99–0.

4 March 2013: U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013

H.R. 938, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), 349 cosponsors.

Building on the U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (see *S. 2165 of 3/6/12), this bill would reaffirm and strengthen the relationship between Israel and the U.S. in a variety of ways.

Provisions include, inter alia, suggesting that Israel be admitted into the visa waiver program after it satisfies admission requirements (see H.R. 300 of 1/15/13 for more on the program); urging new efforts on cybersecurity; transferring certain obsolete or surplus defense materials to Israel; extending Israeli access to the U.S. war reserves stockpiled in Israel for an additional year, and expanding those stockpiles. The bill also designates Israel as a “major strategic partner” of the U.S., a title left undefined, and urges the president to provide assistance for the enhancement of U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense programs. Furthermore, it includes new authorizations for U.S.-Israel cooperation in a variety of fields, including energy, water, homeland security, and renewable energy. Additionally, the bill would extend federal grants to cooperative efforts on renewable energy.

Controversy arose over the Senate's version of this bill because its visa waiver clause stipulated that Israel would be admitted to the visa waiver program only if it fulfilled the program's requirements and made "every reasonable effort, without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel, to ensure that reciprocal travel privileges are extended to all U.S. citizens." Prominent critics of the bill—the Arab American Institute and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee—argued that by allowing for an exception based on security, this bill essentially guaranteed the right of Israeli citizens to enter the U.S. and implicitly endorsed the racial profiling and discrimination to which Arab Americans are subject by Israeli security screenings. The House version only states that it should be U.S. policy to include Israel in the program when it satisfies the admission requirements.

This bill was at the center of efforts by AIPAC lobbyists and it was featured in the "legislative agenda" section of the AIPAC website. J Street also lobbied for this bill, despite its opposition to H.R. 300 of 1/15/13, a bill with nearly identical provisions regarding Israel's entry into the visa waiver program. At the CUFI annual conference lobbying day, over 4,200 attendees lobbied Capitol Hill in favor of this bill.

See also: H.R. 300 of 1/15/13, S. 266 of 2/7/13, and companion measure S. 462 of 3/5/13.

Last major action: 4/8/13 referred to the House Subcmte. on Immigration and Border Security.

4 March 2013: Support Democracy in Egypt Act

H.R. 939, Kerry L. Bentivolio (R-MI), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would forbid the sale or transfer of any military equipment to Egypt unless the president certified that Egypt was verifiably working to counter terrorism and smuggling in the Sinai, adopting policies to protect religious and political freedoms, and upholding its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. The president would be allowed to waive these conditions if it was in the U.S. national security interest. However, the bill expressly stipulates that M1 tanks and F-16 fighter-jets would not be transferred without the above-mentioned certification.

Last major action: 3/4/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

4 March 2013: Dept. of Defense Appropriations Act 2013

S. 444 Susan M. Collins (R-ME), 1 cosponsor.

Appropriations levels for relevant programs listed in this bill are identical to those in the CR, so see *H.R. 933 of 3/6/13 for details.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of this bill.

See also: H.R. 2397 of 6/17/13.

Last major action: 3/4/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Appropriations.

5 March 2013: U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013

S. 462, Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 53 cosponsors.

See similar measure, H.R. 938 of 3/4/13, for a full summary.

Last major action: 3/5/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

5 March 2013: Expressing support for Israel and its right to self-defense against the illegal nuclear program by the Islamic Republic of Iran

H. Res. 98, Paul A. Gosar (R-AZ), 34 cosponsors.

See also: similar measure *S. Res. 65 of 2/28/13.

Last major action: 3/5/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

****6 March 2013: Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013***

H.R. 933, Harold Rogers (R-KY), no cosponsors.

This bill would provide funding for all government operations in FY 2013 (ending 9/30/13) by extending the FY 2012 budget an additional 6 months, with some exceptions. It followed *H. J. Res 117 of 9/10/12, which initially extended the FY 2012 budget to 3/27/13.

Exceptions to the FY 2012 extension came in the form of piecemeal adjustments, but also as a result of the “sequester,” which dominated the context in which the bill was debated. The sequester was devised as a fail-safe cut in mandatory and discretionary spending and was built into the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA), designed to cut the federal deficit by \$2.1 trillion between FY 2012 and FY 2021.

When Congress failed to pass appropriations before the expiration of *H.J. Res. 117, the fail-safe cuts were triggered. This entailed an 8.5% across-the-board reduction in non-essential programs, though different sections of the budget were subject to different cutbacks (e.g., foreign military aid programs were cut by only 5% and discretionary defense spending by 7.8%). Barring congressional repeal, the cuts were to be enforced every fiscal year, 2013–2021, though the percentages affecting each program were to decrease over time.

Lower spending on defense and international programs, combined with the sequester, resulted in significantly reduced funding for many programs. The relevant programs and the cutbacks affecting them are listed below:

MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ISRAEL

Annual justifications for support of Israel were unchanged: Israel’s security is in America’s best interest, and “dynamic” regional politics necessitate closer ties.

In an adjustment from the FY 2012 budget, \$3.1 b. would be appropriated to Israel in foreign military financing (FMF), a scheduled increase of \$25 m. in accordance with the 2007 memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Israel. The amount of those funds that may be spent in Israel would also be increased, from \$808.725 m. to \$815.3 m. (26.3% of the total). That is about \$7 m. less than Israel would be required to spend on defense goods from American contractors. Additionally, \$20 m. would be appropriated from the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) fund to provide for the resettlement in Israel of “humanitarian migrants” from eastern European and former Soviet Bloc states.

Appropriations for missile defense in this bill are at the same level as those in the FY 2013 Dept. of Defense appropriations act (S. 444 of 3/4/13). \$479.736 m. was appropriated for U.S.-Israeli Cooperative Programs. Of that total, \$211 m. was designated for the Iron Dome missile defense system, \$146.679 m. was designated for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense program

(SRBMD), also called David's Sling, \$74.692 m. for Arrow 3, and \$44.365 m. for Arrow 2. From the SRBMD total, \$39.2 m. was allocated for the production of Israeli defense systems in the U.S. and \$44.365 m. was allocated for the Arrow System Improvement Program, which includes the development of a long-range, ground, and airborne detection suite.

The totals listed above are baseline levels of support, subject to the sequester cuts. Because FMF is a "nondefense" military expense, it is subject to a 5% cut. Therefore, after cuts, an estimated \$2.945 b. would be appropriated to Israel in FMF. The Israeli Cooperative Programs are considered "non-exempt defense discretionary funding," so they were subject to 7.8% cuts. Following the cuts, an estimated \$442.326 m. would be appropriated to these programs.

Official U.S. and Israeli sources commented that these funds had already been tapped to cover payments on existing contracts for Israel's first squadron of F-35 joint strike fighters, heavy armored carriers, trainer aircraft engines, transport planes, and a host of other U.S. weaponry.

The effect of sequestration on aid to Israel became a contentious issue during the debates over this bill. At its conference in early 3/2013, AIPAC made it a legislative priority to exempt aid to Israel from sequester cuts. Other pro-Israel groups, including J Street, opposed the exemption, saying that advocating for disproportionate aid to Israel was tantamount to arguing for reduced funding of U.S. social welfare programs.

The Israeli government also opposed the exemption. PM Netanyahu reportedly instructed Israeli officials in Washington not to seek an exemption from sequester cuts. In early 7/2013, a faction in the Israeli Knesset formed the U.S.-Israel Caucus to strengthen understanding between U.S. Jews and Israelis and to decrease Israeli reliance on U.S. military aid. That group also opposed an exemption for Israel's FMF.

ECONOMIC AND SECURITY SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS

This bill accommodated the State Dept. request for \$370 m. in economic support funds (ESF) for the Palestinians in FY 2013 and \$70 m. in security support for the PA. After sequester cuts of approximately 3.5%, FY 2013 support for Palestinians amounted to \$356.7 m. in ESF and \$70 m. in security support to be disbursed through International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE).

Habitually, most economic support is awarded by USAID and the State Dept. to grantees in the West Bank and Gaza working in humanitarian assistance, economic development, democratic reform, and other sectors. Direct support to the PA is used for creditors and suppliers of consumer commodities that have been approved by the State Dept.

U.S. aid to Palestinians is also disbursed through contributions to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) through the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) funds. For FY 2013, the State Dept. requested \$1.625 b. for the MRA fund and \$50 m. for the ERMA fund. This bill appropriated \$1.153 b. to the MRA fund, adjusted down from \$1.639 b. in the extended FY 2012 budget, and listed no specific appropriation to ERMA.

As of 9/2013, an estimated \$275.7 m. had been transferred to UNRWA from the MRA and ERMA funds. The FY 2013 transfers were designated, inter alia, for an emergency appeal in the

West Bank and Gaza (\$75 m.) and for displaced residents of the Nahr al-Barid refugee camp in Lebanon (\$3 m.). Due to the disparate nature of U.S. contributions destined for Palestinians (via UNRWA, as well as MRA and ERMA funds), there are no details illustrating the effects of sequestration on this avenue of support.

Following Pres. Mahmud Abbas's successful bid for Palestine's upgraded observer status at the UN in 11/2012, Congress put a hold on aid to the PA, both direct support and USAID grants. In 3/2013, the State Dept. removed the hold so that the PA would not be destabilized by its fiscal crisis. With the hold removed, the U.S. was able to transfer \$297 m. of the funds appropriated in FY 2012 to USAID and INCLE, and also \$200 m. in direct economic support for the PA from this bill.

Annual presidential authorities, funding restrictions, and provisions regarding the disbursal of aid to Palestinians and the agencies that support Palestinians are carried over from FY 2012 (see *H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11 on congressionalmonitor.org for details).

MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR EGYPT

Levels of support for Egypt were unchanged from the continuing resolution (*H.J. Res. 117), which put in place a monthly disbursement schedule. Specifically, \$1.3 b. was appropriated in FMF and \$250 m. in ESF. Following the sequester, Egypt was to receive approximately \$1.234 b. in FMF and \$241 m. in ESF.

The frequency with which lawmakers proposed amendments to this bill conditioning aid to Egypt prompted Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) to remark on the floor of the House (3/14/13), "This is a continuing resolution for 6 months. We have a functioning Foreign Relations Cmte. That is where this should take place We all have concerns about Egypt, our funding of Egypt, maintaining stability in the region, supporting Israel I would again remind Senators that this is a continuing resolution. A long-term solution to the situation in the Middle East is not a short-term CR. Whatever we do on this bill would expire in 6 months anyway" The amendments he was referencing, none of which were considered, are summarized below.

S.A. 27, submitted on 3/12/13 by Marco Rubio (R-FL), no cosponsors.

If the secretary of state cannot certify that a series of listed internal reforms takes place in Egypt, this amendment would divert appropriations to "democracy and governance programs."

S.A. 28, submitted on 3/12/13 by Rand Paul (R-KY), 2 cosponsors.

This amendment would restrict all appropriations to Egypt "until the president certifies that the President of Egypt has publicly declared, in English and Arabic, his intent to abide by the Camp David Accords."

S.A. 44, submitted on 3/13/13 by Marco Rubio (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This amendment is the same as S.A. 27 of 3/12/13, except that this version gives the secretary of state a 180-day period to delay the certification on the grounds of national security.

S.A. 52, submitted on 3/14/13 by James Inhofe (R-OK), 3 cosponsors.

This amendment would forbid sale, lease, transfer, retransfer, or delivery of F-16 aircraft, M1 tanks, or certain other defense articles or services to Egypt until the president certifies that Egypt has agreed to improve embassy security and uphold minority rights.

S.A. 61, submitted on 3/14/13 by John McCain (R-AZ), no cosponsors.

This amendment would suspend all appropriations to Egypt until 30 days after the president submits a report to Congress providing a “comprehensive strategy for modernizing and improving U.S. security cooperation with, and assistance to, Egypt.” It goes on to request that other sections be covered by the report: human rights, democracy, arms trafficking, enforcing the rule of law, enhancing security, advancing economic development, and maintaining the Camp David Accords.

S.A. 110, submitted on 3/14/13 by Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), no cosponsors.

This amendment is almost identical to S.A. 61 (above), but instead of the president, it would require the secretary of state to submit a report on Egypt 15 days after the bill’s passage. The amendment also stipulates that, of the ESF provided for Egypt, no less than \$25 m. “should be made available for democracy and education programs, including support for civil society organizations, and for programs to promote the rule of law and human rights.”

S.A. 117, submitted on 3/14/13 by Marco Rubio (R-FL), no cosponsors.

This amendment would place humanitarian and democratic “conditionalities” on ESF and FMF for Egypt. It would also require that no less than \$25 m. be allocated to democracy promotion programs in Egypt.

REACTING TO THE CRISIS IN SYRIA

The crisis in Syria was mentioned in 1 amendment. All other funding priorities relevant to Syria, including an annual ban on assistance to the Syrian government, were carried over from the FY 2012 budget.

*S.A. 26, submitted on 3/11/13 by Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), 1 cosponsor.

This amendment would require the secretary of state to consult the relevant congressional cmtes. before aid to support Syria is disbursed. It was passed by yea-nay vote, 70–29, on 3/20/13.

ADJUSTMENTS TO SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Middle East and North Africa Incentive Fund (MENAIF): In the executive budget request for FY 2013, Pres. Obama proposed this new fund to facilitate a unified U.S. reaction to the dynamic political situation in the Middle East. Although both the originally proposed House and Senate bills agreed to fund the new initiative in their FY 2013 appropriations for the State Dept. and foreign operations, this bill would appropriate no funds to the MENAIF.

International Peacekeeping Activities: \$2.006 b. was appropriated to this fund, a \$92 m. reduction from the State Dept.’s request for FY 2013. Of this total, the State Dept. requested \$161 m. for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), an \$11 m. decrease from FY 2012, and \$13 m. for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), unchanged from FY 2012. UNIFIL’s mission is to provide support and stability in southern Lebanon following Israel’s

withdrawal from the area, and UNDOF is charged with maintaining the ceasefire on the Israeli-Syrian border.

See also: S. 444 of 3/4/13, H. Res. 99 of 3/5/13, S. 3241 of 5/24/12, H.R. 5856 of 5/25/12, and *H. J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12.

Last major action: 3/26/13 signed into law by the president. (3/20/13 passed in Senate by yea-nay vote, 73–26; 3/6/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 267–151.)

7 March 2013: A resolution calling for the protections of religious minority rights and freedoms in the Arab world

S. Res. 69, James M. Inhofe (R-OK), 2 cosponsors.

This resolution would recognize “in the spirit of Arab Spring revolution, that religious minority freedoms must be protected” and it would urge the administration to put pressure on regimes with discriminatory laws.

See also: H. Res. 106 of 3/12/13.

Last major action: 3/7/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

11 March 2013: To rescind unobligated amounts for foreign assistance to Egypt and to appropriate funds for the Dept. of Defense tuition assistance program

H.R. 1039, Michael G. Fitzpatrick (R-PA), 41 cosponsors.

This bill would rescind \$500 m. in appropriated, but undisbursed, aid to Egypt and appropriate the funds to the Dept. of Defense tuition assistance program for FY 2013. That program provides funds to help veteran soldiers and marines attend university.

Last major action: 3/11/13 referred to House Cmte. on Appropriations.

12 March 2013: Calling for the protection of religious minority rights and freedoms in the Arab world

H. Res. 106, Jim Bridenstone (R-OK), 25 cosponsors.

See similar measure S. Res. 69 of 3/7/13 for a summary of this resolution.

Last major action: 3/12/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

12 March 2013: Condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights

H. Res. 109, Michael Grimm (R-NY), 80 cosponsors.

See also: S. Res. 75 of 3/12/13.

Last major action: 5/6/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Middle East and North Africa.

****12 March 2013: A resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights***

S. Res. 75, Mark Kirk (R-IL), 35 cosponsors.

See also: H. Res. 109 of 3/12/13.

Last major action: 12/20/13 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

13 March 2013: Iron Dome Support Act

H.R. 1130, Susan Davis (D-CA), 87 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the president to assist Israel by procuring, maintaining, enhancing, and sustaining the Iron Dome missile defense system. Unlike the 2012 version of this bill (H.R. 4229 of 3/21/12), the current wording includes “enhancing,” and adds language noting official Israeli statements of willingness to share the technology used to produce the Iron Dome system with the U.S.

On 1/24/13, Rep. Davis circulated a letter calling for cosponsors to this resolution. In it, she cited the Iron Dome’s oft-quoted 90% success rate.

Pro-Israel groups, including AIPAC and J Street, supported this bill.

See also: H.R. 4229 of 3/21/12, H.R. 2701 of 7/16/13, and H.R. 2717 of 7/17/13.

Last major action: 3/13/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

13 March 2013: Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the conditions for the U.S. becoming a signatory to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (UNATT), or to any similar agreement on the arms trade

S. Con. Res. 7, Jerry Moran (R-KS), 36 cosponsors.

There is only 1 directly relevant clause in this resolution. It states that Congress sees the UNATT, a global effort to regulate the trade of conventional and small arms, as a hindrance to the U.S.’s ability to fulfill “its strategic, legal, and moral commitments to provide arms” to allies like Israel.

See also: H. Con. Res. 23 of 3/13/13.

Last major action: 3/13/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

13 March 2013: Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the conditions for the U.S. becoming a signatory to the UNATT, or to any similar agreement on the arms trade

H. Con. Res. 23, Mike Kelly (R-PA), 150 cosponsors.

See similar measure S. Con. Res. 7 of 3/13/13 for a summary of this resolution.

Last major action: 3/13/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***15 March 2013: An original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for FY 2014, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for FY 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023**

S. Con. Res. 8, Patty Murray (D-WA), no cosponsors.

This bill’s primary purpose is largely irrelevant to Israel, the Palestinians, and the Middle East, but there was 1 relevant amendment.

S.A. 364, submitted on 3/21/13 by Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL), 3 cosponsors.

In order to strengthen the sanctions against Iran, this amendment would seek to close the “Euro Loophole,” which refers to Iran’s practice of trading with its extensive foreign currency reserves. It was not brought up for a vote.

See also: S. 892 of 5/8/13.

Last major action: 10/16/13 agreed to in House without objection. (3/23/13 agreed to in Senate by yea-nay vote, 50–49.)

19 March 2013: Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act

S. 604, Dean Heller (R-NV), 5 cosponsors.

See related measure, H.R. 104 of 1/3/13, for a full summary.

Last major action: 3/19/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

19 March 2013: Syria Democratic Transition Act 2013

S. 617, Robert Casey (D-PA), 10 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize, inter alia, non-lethal aid to certain Syrian rebel groups (training and equipment), humanitarian efforts, support for a Syria reconstruction fund, and support for post-transition efforts.

It would also expand sanctions against the Syrian government, call for a U.S. democratic transition plan, and urge the administration to undertake multilateral relief efforts.

Last major action: 3/19/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

20 March 2013: To prohibit FMF to Egypt

H.R. 1302, Austin Scott (R-GA), no cosponsors.

Beginning in FY 2014, this bill would prohibit all military credit assistance to Egypt.

Last major action: 3/20/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***20 March 2013: A resolution recognizing the 192nd anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the U.S.**

S. Res. 84, Robert Menendez (R-NJ), 30 cosponsors.

This resolution cites Greece's excellent relations with both Israel and Muslim nations.

See also: *S. Res. 398 of 3/15/12.

Last major action: 3/20/13 agreed to in Senate.

21 March 2013: Free Syria Act 2013

H.R. 1327, Eliot Engel (D-NY), 7 cosponsors.

In response to the ongoing crisis in Syria, this bill would outline principles for U.S. humanitarian and military assistance, authorize provision of that assistance, and begin preparations for a post-Asad transitional government.

Specifically, the bill would authorize, for the first time, the transfer of defense articles and services, including military training, to certain Syrian rebel groups. It would also require that any economic assistance transferred to Syria be marked with the words "From the American People" and a representation of the U.S. flag.

Last major action: 4/15/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Immigration and Border Security.

21 March 2013: The Palestinian Accountability Act 2013

H.R. 1337, Ron DeSantis (R-FL), 17 cosponsors.

This is a comprehensive and restrictive bill aimed at conditioning U.S. economic support for the PA and guiding Palestinian behavior.

It would prohibit U.S. documents from referring to the area governed by the PA as “Palestine” until the secretary of state certifies that the PA has, inter alia, held fair elections, implemented the 2003 Road Map to Peace, recognized Israel as a Jewish state, and verifiably taken steps to dismantle terrorist networks and end incitement.

It would also require a private auditor to survey the PA budget and submit the results to Congress before any aid is disbursed.

Finally, it lists a series of conditions that the PA must fulfill before any U.S. aid can be transferred to UNRWA or to the UN if it accepts Palestine as a member.

Last major action: 3/21/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

22 March 2013: Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act of 2013

S. 653, Roy Blunt (R-MO), 22 cosponsors.

See related measure H.R. 301 of 1/15/13 for a full summary.

Last major action: 12/18/13 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

10 April 2013: Calling for the release of U.S. citizen Saeed Abedini and condemning the Government of Iran for its persecution of religious minorities

H. Res. 147, Bill Cassidy (R-IL), 90 cosponsors.

Saeed Abedini is a Christian pastor of Iranian descent and American citizenship. He was arrested in Iran in the summer of 2010 and sentenced to 8 years in prison for “undermining national security.” The charges were brought against him after he gained notoriety in the Islamic Republic for building a network of Christian churches.

See also: *S. Res. 284 of 10/31/13.

Last major action: 11/20/13 ordered to be reported.

10 April 2013: Recognizing the 65th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel

H. Con. Res. 30, Trey Radel (R-FL), 157 cosponsors.

Last major action: 5/6/13 referred to the Subcmte. on Middle East and North Africa.

10 April 2013: To authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to educational organizations to carry out educational programs about the Holocaust

H.R. 1477, Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), 4 cosponsors.

Last major action: 7/8/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

11 April 2013: Holocaust Rail Justice Act of 2013

H.R.1505, Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), 23 cosponsors.

This bill would allow U.S. District Courts to adjudicate disputes between the French railway company, Société nationale des chemins de fer français (SCNF), and Holocaust survivors and their families.

Between 1941 and 1945, German forces occupying France requisitioned SCNF assets and transferred 75,000 French Jews, captured Allied troops, and U.S. citizens through Vichy to concentration camps. Following the war, SCNF sought compensation from Germany and France for damages relating to its forced collaboration. If this bill were to pass, the victims and their families would be permitted to seek reparations in U.S. courts.

The Obama administration opposed similar measures in the past on the grounds that they would constitute a usurpation of executive power.

The Coalition for Holocaust Rail Justice, a coalition of Holocaust survivors, family members, historians, and volunteers, supported this measure.

See also: H.R. 1193 of 3/17/11.

Last major action: 4/11/13 referred to House Cmtes. on the Judiciary and Foreign Affairs.

23 April 2013: Urging the PA and Pres. Mahmud Abbas to clarify a presidential succession plan, expand political freedom in the West Bank, and take preventative measures to limit the possibility of a Hamas takeover in the West Bank

H. Res. 177, Peter J. Roskam (R-IL), 14 cosponsors.

This resolution was introduced 10 days after PA PM Salam Fayyad resigned from office. He had been widely touted in the West as a viable successor to Mahmud Abbas and as a Palestinian politician amenable to Western values and interests.

Last major action: 5/6/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Middle East and North Africa.

26 April 2013: Global Partnerships Act of 2013

H.R. 1793, Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would, inter alia, establish a framework for effective, transparent, and accountable U.S. foreign assistance. Primarily, that would mean amending passages of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which was passed under Pres. Kennedy and is the foundation of modern U.S. aid disbursement.

The proposed changes would not significantly affect existing agreements and obligations regarding aid to Israel and the Palestinians, or other states in the region.

See also: previous year's version, H.R. 6644 of 12/11/12.

Last major action: 4/26/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Foreign Affairs; Oversight and Government Reform; Rules; and Ways and Means.

6 May 2013: Syria Stabilization Act of 2013

S. 856, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), no cosponsors.

This bill was a bipartisan effort to provide a coherent U.S. response to the escalating crisis in Syria, specifically to facilitate a stable political transition.

Under 6 major headings, the bill would:

1. Authorize military training and the provision of arms and non-lethal supplies to thoroughly vetted groups among the opposition.
2. Create a Syria Transition Fund, which would disburse up to \$250 m. annually to secure U.S. assets, promote non-proliferation activities, and provide other transition-related assistance in Syria in FY 2013–FY 2015.
3. Impose new sanctions and expand existing sanctions on arms and oil sales to the Syrian government and human rights abusers in Syria.
4. Authorize the administration to provide humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people without new funding appropriations.
5. Require the administration to work with Congress and keep it fully apprised of its strategy toward Syria, including developments within the international community.
6. Allow for the removal of sanctions once a transitional government is in place and WMD and terror destabilization criteria are met.

This bill was introduced 2 weeks after the first unverified reports of chemical weapon use in Syria hit the U.S. national media.

See also: similar measure S. 960 of 5/15/13.

Last major action: 5/6/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

8 May 2013: Iran Sanctions Loophole Elimination Act of 2013

S. 892, Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL), 31 cosponsors.

This bill would address the concern that the Iranian government is circumventing U.S. sanctions by trading its oil reserves with foreign currency exchange reserves, specifically those held in Euros. The bill would allow the U.S. president to impose sanctions on foreign entities taking part in financial transactions with Iran, restricting the capacity of both the Central Bank of Iran and the National Iranian Oil Company.

Originally introduced as an amendment to a budget-related resolution (S. Con. Res. 8 of 3/15/13), this bill was widely believed to be a small part of a larger new sanctions initiative based in Senator Kirk's office.

On 2/25/13, 36 Senators (19 Democrats and 17 Republicans, including majorities of both the Senate Foreign Relations and Banking Cmtes.) signed onto a letter addressed to leaders in the EU, urging them to take immediate action to close this "Euro loophole."

NORPAC actively supported this bill. Their talking points on the subject highlighted the bill's "potential to deprive Iran of \$100 billion in foreign reserves," (5/22/13). At the annual advocacy day (5/22/13) of the Zionist Organization for America, the organization's president, Mort Klein, supported this bill in front of an audience of lawmakers.

See also: H.R. 850 of 2/27/13 and S.A. 364 on S. Con. Res. 8 of 3/15/13.

Last major action: 5/8/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

9 May 2013: Foreign Assistance Under Limitation and Transparency (FAULT) Act

H.R. 1922, Paul Gosar (R-AZ), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would forbid appropriations or U.S. aid of any kind to Iran, North Korea, Syria, Egypt, and Pakistan, with an exception of up to \$50 m. per year for agricultural commodities, medicine, and medical devices.

It would also remove Egypt's designation as a "major non-NATO ally" until the secretary of state certifies that the Egyptian government has undertaken certain democratic measures.

Rep. Gosar attached the language of this bill to the last 2 Defense Dept. Appropriations Acts (*H.R. 5856 of 3/25/12 and *H.R. 1473 of 4/11/11).

Last major action: 5/9/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

9 May 2013: To improve the Lower East Side Tenement National Historic Site, and for other purposes

S. 925, Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), 1 cosponsor.

Since 1988, the Lower East Side Tenement National Historical Site has hosted a museum honoring the history of immigrants to New York City. Among other administrative upgrades, this act provides for specific exhibits recognizing Puerto Rican migrants, post-1965 Chinese immigrants, and Holocaust survivors.

Last major action: 7/31/13 hearings held in Senate Subcmte. on National Parks.

14 May 2013: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2014

H.R. 1960, Howard McKeon (R-CA), 1 cosponsor.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of this bill and *H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13 for a summary of the NDAA for FY 2014.

Last major action: 6/14/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 315–108.

15 May 2013: Israel QME Enhancement Act

H.R. 1992, Doug Collins (R-GA), 33 cosponsors.

This bill would expand U.S. capacity for maintaining Israel's military advantage over its neighbors. Specifically, it would add considerations for "cyber and asymmetric threats" as well as conventional weapons to calculations regarding Israel's "qualitative military edge," a distinction that Congress has pledged to uphold. It would also increase congressional oversight, requiring the president to produce reports on Israel's military (relative to its neighbors) every 2 years rather than every 4.

Though it was unofficially dropped in cmte., the text of this bill was added by amendment to the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013 (H.R. 938 of 3/4/13).

Last major action: 12/12/13 passed in House by a vote of 399–0, with 32 abstentions.

15 May 2013: Syria Transition Support Act of 2013

S. 960, Robert Menendez (R-NJ), 3 cosponsors.

This bill contains the same 6 main points as Sen. Menendez's other measure on Syrian transition (S. 856 of 5/6/13).

Last major action: 7/24/13 placed on Senate legislative calendar. (5/22/13 passed in Cmte. on Foreign Relations by yea-nay vote, 15-3.)

15 May 2013: Iran Sanctions Implementation Act of 2013

S. 965, James Inhofe (R-OK), 13 cosponsors.

Citing oil exports of 1.25 m. barrels/day, which supply 70% of Iran's revenue from international trade, this bill would create "Iranian Oil Replacement Zones" in the U.S. to which the president would allocate federal land of his choice. The purpose of such zones would be to produce and transport up to 1.25 m. barrels per day of oil to replace current Iranian supply to the international oil market. These zones would not be subject to judicial review and could span multiple states.

Last major action: 5/15/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Energy and Natural Resources.

16 May 2013: Conditioning U.S.-Egypt Military Exercises Act of 2013

S. 984, Pat Toomey (R-PA), no cosponsors.

This bill would discontinue U.S. funding for joint exercises with the Egyptian military if Egypt reneged on or withdrew from its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. This measure would be subject to a presidential national security waiver.

In 2012, Sen. Toomey introduced identical measures as an amendment to the NDAA (S.A. 3601 to *S. 3254 of 6/4/12) and as an independent bill (S. 3670 of 12/12/12).

Last major action: 5/16/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Armed Services.

****16 May 2013: A resolution recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in the efforts of the U.S. Government to promote democracy and good governance on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2013***

S. Res. 143, Robert Menendez (R-NJ), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution cites Iran and Syria as 2 of the 5 countries with the highest number of imprisoned journalists. The other 3 are Eritrea, Turkey and China. It also mentions Syria as one of the 5 deadliest countries for journalists in 2012.

Last major action: 6/18/13 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

17 May 2013: Recognizing the long-term partnership and friendship between the U.S. and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, working together towards peace and security in the Middle East

H. Res. 222, Gregory Meeks (D-NY), 44 cosponsors.

Last major action: 8/2/13 motion to reconsider laid on the table.

17 May 2013: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the ongoing conflict in Syria and the urgent need for the Syrian opposition coalition and local coordinating cmtes. in Syria to assume the responsibilities of governance including the establishment of institutions of transitional justice, and to guarantee the rights of all Syria's people, regardless of ethnic or religious affiliation

H. Res. 223, James P. Moran (D-VA), no cosponsors.

This resolution would call on the Syrian opposition coalition to publicly outline a vision of a future Syria that would guarantee full citizenship and equality to all citizens. It would also call on the Obama administration to continue to support the Syrian opposition coalition toward that aim. In conclusion, it would call for all parties in the conflict to respect international humanitarian law, protect minorities, and preserve minority cultural and religious sites.

Last major action: 6/7/13 referred to House Subcmt. on the Middle East and North Africa.

21 May 2013: Calling for Syrian president Bashar al-Asad and others to be tried before the ICC for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity

H. Res. 229, Steve Israel (D-NY), 5 cosponsors

Last major action: 5/21/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

21 May 2013: RUSH Act

S. 999, Ben Cardin (D-MD), 8 cosponsors.

This bill would increase support Holocaust survivors in the U.S., including better access to transportation and Kosher meals.

It was advanced with the support of the Jewish Federation of North America.

See also: similar measure H.R. 2064 of 5/21/13.

Last major action: 5/21/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

21 May 2013: RUSH Act

H.R. 2064, Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), 26 cosponsors.

See similar measure S. 999 of 5/21/13 for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/8/13 referred to House Subcmt. on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

21 May 2013: Iran Export Embargo Act

S. 1001, John Cornyn (R-TX), 20 cosponsors.

This bill would expand the reach of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 to include certain individuals.

Specifically, it would allow the president to impose sanctions on any individual who either provides insurance for or transports goods from the government of Iran, including all subdivisions and the Central Bank of Iran, and any person acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of that government.

As justification, the bill cites Iran's sponsorship of human rights abusers in the Syrian conflict, support for militants in Gaza, the Iranian nuclear weapons program, and Iranian violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UNSC Resolution 1701 (2006).

Last major action: 5/21/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

22 May 2013: Next Generation Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 2013

S. 1021, Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), no cosponsors.

This bill would resolve that it is in the interest of the U.S. to expand the activities of the Cooperative Threat Reduction program (CTR) under the Dept. of Defense as a means of creating an international effort towards nuclear nonproliferation. It specifically cites the threat posed by Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

The bill would call on the president to develop and implement a multi-year, comprehensive strategy for the nonproliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons in the Middle East and North Africa. \$30 m. would be authorized for each FY 2014–2019 to be used in the implementation and creation of the strategy.

Last major action: 5/22/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

23 May 2013: National Defense Authorization Act of 2014

S. 1034, Carl Levin (D-MI), 1 cosponsor.

For a summary of the final NDAA for FY 2014 that was passed into law, see *H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13. For previous versions, see H.R. 1960 of 5/14/13 for the House's and S. 1197 of 6/20/13 for the Senate's.

Last major action: 5/23/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Armed Services.

***23 May 2013: A resolution supporting political reform in Iran and for other purposes**

S. Res. 154, John Hoeven (R-ND), 32 cosponsors.

This resolution would demonstrate support for regime change in Iran, specifically with the goal of democratization. Also, it would urge the president and secretary of state to, inter alia, condemn unfair elections in Iran.

It was introduced in the days following the Iranian supreme leader's first cull of candidates from consideration prior to the 6/2013 presidential election.

See also: related measure H. Res. 252 of 6/6/13.

Last major action: 6/13/13 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

23 May 2013: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding U.S. efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace

H. Res. 238, Barbara Lee (D-CA), 8 cosponsors.

This resolution would reaffirm the U.S. policy that a two-state solution based on 1967 borders is the best way to preserve Israel as a Jewish state and to allow for the realization of the Palestinian right to self-determination. It also includes a series of clauses commending behavior that supports the aforementioned U.S. policy and condemning behaviors that oppose it.

Last major action: 6/7/13 referred to House Subcmte. on the Middle East and North Africa.

6 June 2013: Calling for free and fair elections in Iran, and for other purposes

H. Res. 252, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 16 cosponsors.

This resolution contains similar language to *S. Res. 154 of 5/23/13 with regard to human rights promotion and desire for free and fair elections, but it omits the regime change objective. It was introduced the week prior to the Iranian presidential election on 6/13/13.

Last major action: 6/6/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

6 June 2013: Offshore Energy and Jobs Act

H.R. 2231, Doc Hastings (R-WA), 11 cosponsors.

This bill would reform and administer the U.S. energy sector. It is not directly relevant to Israel or the Palestinians. However, it would prohibit the authorization of leases under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to any person who violates the sanctions on Syria or Iran.

Last major action: 6/28/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 235–186.

17 June 2013: Dept. of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014

H.R. 2397, Bill C. W. Young (R-FL), no cosponsors.

Congressional intentions for military funding to Israel, Egypt, and other regional organizations are detailed in the House's version of the NDAA (H.R. 1960 of 5/14/13). This annual bill approves the transfer of funds to those programs for the fiscal year ending 9/30/14.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of this bill.

Last major action: 7/24/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 315–109.

19 June 2013: A bill to prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds made available to any Federal dept. or agency for any fiscal year to provide military assistance to any of the armed combatants in Syria absent express prior statutory authorization from Congress

H.R. 2432, Richard M. Nolan (D-MN), no cosponsors.

This bill would prohibit the provision of military assistance to any armed combatants in Syria without specific authorization from Congress.

It was introduced in response to the State Dept. certification (6/13/13) that sarin gas had been used in the Syrian conflict.

See also: S. 1201 of 6/20/13, H. Con. Res. 40 of 6/20/13, and H.R. 2492 of 6/25/13.

Last major action: 6/19/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

20 June 2013: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2014

S. 1197, Carl Levin (D-MI), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of this bill and *H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13 for a summary of the NDAA for FY 2014.

See also: H.R. 1960 of 5/14/13 and the Senate version, S. 1034 of 5/23/13.

Last major action: 11/21/13 Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV) held a cloture vote in an attempt to expedite a final floor vote. The cloture motion failed, 51–49.

20 June 2013: Protecting Americans from the Proliferation of Weapons to Terrorists Act of 2013

S. 1201, Tom Udall (D-NM), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would forbid U.S. assistance to any group or individual in Syria to conduct military or paramilitary operations unless specifically authorized by Congress. It would also require the secretary of state to report to Congress on the issue every 90 days. The bill provides an exception for assistance to the Syrian people in the form of non-lethal humanitarian aid supplied through NGOs and contractors or foreign governments.

Sens. Paul, Murphy, and Udall, all cosponsors of this bill, cast the 3 dissenting votes in the Senate Armed Service Cmte. decision (5/22/13) to send the Syria Transition Support Act (S. 960 of 5/13/13) to the floor of the Senate.

See also: H.R. 2432 of 6/19/13, identical bills H.R. 2492 and H.R. 2494, both of 6/25/13, and H.R. 2507 of 6/26/13.

Last major action: 6/20/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Intelligence.

20 June 2013: Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President is prohibited under the Constitution from initiating war against Syria without express congressional authorization and the appropriation of funds for the express purpose of waging such a war

H. Con. Res. 40, Walter Jones Jr. (R-NC), 2 cosponsors.

Last major action: 7/15/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

25 June 2013: Protecting Americans from the Proliferation of Weapons to Terrorists Act of 2013

H.R. 2492, Scott DesJarlais (R-TN), 1 cosponsor.

See identical measure S. 1201 of 6/20/13 for a full summary.

See also: H.R. 2503 of 6/25/13, H.R. 2501 of 6/25/13, H.R. 2494 of 6/25/13, and H.R. 2507 of 6/26/13.

Last major action: 6/25/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

25 June 2013: Protecting Americans from the Proliferation of Weapons to Terrorists Act of 2013

H.R. 2494, Christopher Gibson (R-NY), 9 cosponsors.

The content of this bill is identical to H.R. 2492, also of 6/25/13.

See also: S. 1201 of 6/20/13, H.R. 2503 of 6/25/13, H.R. 2501 of 6/25/13, and H.R. 2492 of 6/25/13.

Last major action: 6/25/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Intelligence.

25 June 2013: Congressional Accountability and Oversight in Syria Act

H.R. 2501, Thomas Rooney (R-FL), 13 cosponsors.

This bill would forbid any U.S. government agency from providing direct or indirect aid that would bolster the capacity of any individual, group, or organization in Syria to carry out military or paramilitary activities, with an exception for humanitarian assistance.

See also: S. 1201 of 6/20/13, H.R. 2503 of 6/25/13, H.R. 2494 of 6/25/13, and H.R. 2492 of 6/25/13.

Last major action: 6/25/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

25 June 2013: To prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds to provide military assistance to opposition forces in Syria

H.R. 2503, Ted Yoho (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Citing the participation of “known terrorist organizations” in the Syrian conflict, this bill would forbid any U.S. agency from providing military support to opposition forces in Syria.

Last major action: 6/25/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

26 June 2013: War Powers Protection Act of 2013

H.R. 2507, Thomas Massie (R-KY), 13 cosponsors.

This bill would forbid any U.S. support for military and paramilitary activities in Syria, unless Congress declared war. It would also require the secretary of state to report every 90 days on U.S. assistance to individuals and groups in Syria.

Last major action: 6/26/13 referred to House Cmte. on Armed Services.

27 June 2013: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations, 2014

S. 1243, Patty Murray (D-WA), no cosponsors.

This bill would provide appropriations for the Depts. of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies. While it contained no provisions explicitly related to Israel, the Palestinians, or the Arab-Israeli conflict, there were 2 relevant amendments proposed.

S.A. 1739, submitted on 7/31/13 by Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

Citing the “military coup d’état” in Egypt on 7/3/13 and prior U.S. law prohibiting the U.S. from providing foreign assistance to countries whose democratically elected governments are deposed in military coups, this amendment would put a hold on all aid to Egypt (\$1.55 b.) and redirect the funds to be used by the Dept. of Transportation for bridge rehabilitation. The amendment was struck down by a vote of 86–13.

Prior to the vote on this amendment, AIPAC sent a public letter to Senate leadership announcing its support for continued aid to Egypt. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) read the AIPAC letter aloud on the floor of the Senate during the debate over this amendment (7/31/13). The letter stated “[the amendment] could increase instability in Egypt and undermine important U.S. interests and negatively impact our Israeli ally.”

S.A. 1808, submitted on 7/31/13 by Lindsey Graham (R-SC), no cosponsors.

This amendment lays out a complex new structure of conditions on annual aid to Egypt. The language is similar to the section on Egypt in S. 1372 of 7/25/13. It was not attached to the bill.

Last major action: 8/1/13 cloture on the measure not invoked by yea-nay vote, 54–43.

27 June 2013: Conditioning Economic Assistance and Support to Egypt (CEASE) Act

H.R. 2544, David Schweikert (R-AZ), 6 cosponsors.

This bill would condition U.S. aid to Egypt, and U.S. support for IMF and World Bank aid to Egypt, on a presidential certification that the government of Egypt was, inter alia, adhering to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, implementing legal reforms to protect human rights, and maintaining a schedule of free and fair elections.

Last major action: 6/27/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Financial Services and Foreign Affairs.

2 July 2013: Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014

H.R. 2609, Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), no cosponsors.

This bill would provide appropriations to energy and water development programs and to related agencies in FY 2014.

Under this bill, some \$2 m. would go to U.S.-Israel energy cooperation programs, established in 2007 with the passing of the U.S.-Israel Energy Cooperation Act. These appropriations fund research and development of renewable energy sources.

Last major action: 7/10/13 passed in House by yea-nay vote, 227–198.

9 July 2013: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Republic of Argentina's membership in the G20 should be conditioned on its adherence to international norms of economic relations and commitment to the rule of law

H. Res. 291, Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), 6 cosponsors.

This resolution cites the Argentine government's role in undermining sanctions on Iran, specifically noting that trade between Argentina and Iran expanded tenfold in the previous 5 years.

Last major action: 8/16/13 referred to House Subcmte. on the Western Hemisphere.

11 July 2013: Egyptian Military Coup Act of 2013

S. 1278, Rand Paul (R-KY), no cosponsors.

Citing U.S. law forbidding the transfer of aid to countries in which a military coup has overthrown a democratically elected government, this bill would suspend the processing of future arms sales and the transfer of defense articles and services to Egypt. The suspension would be lifted once the president certified that democratic elections had taken place in Egypt.

Last major action: 7/11/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

16 July 2013: U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation Act of 2013

H.R. 2701, Pete Roskam (R-IL), 1 cosponsor.

This bill is identical to H.R. 2717 of 7/17/13 (summarized below). It is unclear why Rep. Roskam introduced the same measure twice.

Last major action: 7/16/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

17 July 2013: U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Cooperation Act of 2013

H.R. 2717, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 49 cosponsors.

This bill would authorize the U.S. president to provide assistance for the procurement of the Iron Dome missile defense system, as requested by the Israeli government. It would also authorize continued cooperation on the development and procurement of David's Sling, Arrow, and Arrow 3 missile defense systems.

It also cites Israel's willingness to share the technology of the Iron Dome with the U.S., but does not make any stipulation to that effect.

See also: H.R. 1130 of 3/13/13 and H.R. 2701 of 7/16/13.

Last major action: 7/17/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

17 July 2013: UN Transparency, Accountability, and Reform Act of 2013

S. 1313, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 4 cosponsors.

This bill would reform the U.S. relationship with the broader UN system. Each of its provisions seeks to use U.S. influence to defend Israel and to undermine the Palestinians at the UN.

The bill's specific provisions include, but are not limited to the following: authorizing audits of U.S. contributions to the UN; restricting annual funding to UN programs that do not advance U.S. interests; establishing firm U.S. policies not to support anti-Semitic or anti-Israeli behavior at the UN; revoking funding for any UN agency that upgraded the Palestinian observer mission's membership outside of a negotiated settlement with Israel. This bill would also direct the U.S. to lead a high-level diplomatic committee to revoke and repudiate the Goldstone Report. All U.S. funding of the "flawed" Durban process, a UN anti-racism and anti-discrimination initiative, would be withheld. Finally, the bill would condition U.S. funding of UNRWA on the agency's implementation of safeguards against terrorist links.

Last major action: 7/17/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

***22 July 2013: Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014**

H.R. 2775, Diane Black (R-TN), 104 cosponsors.

Because Congress failed to pass 2014 appropriations before the start of the new fiscal year on 10/1/13, the government was forced to shut down. This bill, signed into law on 10/16, ended the government shutdown by appropriating funds to government agencies—including the Depts. of State and Defense—through 1/15/14, and it also raised the debt limit through 2/7/14.

Budgetary appropriations to agencies, funds, and services related to Israel, the Palestinians, and the Middle East generally fall under 2 sections of the budget: Defense Dept., and State Dept. and foreign operations. The FY 2013 budget, itself an extension of the FY 2012 budget with minor adjustments, was maintained for those 2 depts. through 1/15/14 (for FY 2013, see *H.R. 933 of 3/6/13 and *H.J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12; for FY 2012, see *H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11).

In addition to extending the budgets, this bill did *not* repeal the fail-safe funding cuts of the Budget Control Act of 2011, commonly known as the sequester (see *H.R. 933 of 3/6/13 for more on the sequester), so the budget approved by this bill was subject to those cuts.

The shutdown was instigated for political reasons largely irrelevant to the subject matter at hand. A small group of Republicans in the House blocked any budget bill from passing in protest against the Affordable Care Act, a healthcare reform bill which was signed into law in 2010. Their protest lasted until 10/16, the day before the debt ceiling—a legislative mechanism that Congress must agree to raise—was projected to be reached by the Treasury.

The shutdown debate did play into this journal's subject matter in 2 noteworthy ways. The U.S. Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), a subsidiary of the Treasury, is the primary agency charged with overseeing the implementation of sanctions on Iran. Because "nonessential" federal employees were on furlough during the shutdown, and many employees of the OFAC were deemed "nonessential," the sanctions were not being fully monitored.

The other instance in which the relevant issues were impacted by the government shutdown came on 10/2, when State Dept. spokesperson Psaki was discussing the potential effects of the shutdown on U.S. military support to its allies (on 10/2/13). She said, "I'll just give you one example—FY 2014 security assistance funding for Israel will be delayed until a continuing resolution or until full-year appropriation is passed. The State Dept.'s ability to provide military assistance to Israel and other allies in the timeframe that is expected and customary could be hindered depending on the length of the shutdown."

See also: *H.R. 2055 of 5/31/11, *H.R. 933 of 3/6/13, and *H.J. Res. 117 of 9/10/12.

Last major action: 10/17/13 signed into law by the president. (10/16/13 passed in Senate by yeay-nay vote, 81–18; 9/12/13 passed in House by yeay-nay vote, 235–191.)

25 July 2013: Dept. of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, FY 2014

S. 1372, Patrick Leahy (D-VT), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of this bill and *H.R. 2775 of 7/22/13 for a summary of the appropriations for FY 2014.

See also: similar measure H.R. 2855 of 7/30/13.

Last major action: 7/25/13 passed in Senate Subcmte. on State and Foreign Operations by a vote of 23–7. (Following months of holdups and debate, this bill, along with every other dept.-specific appropriations bill introduced for FY 2014, was not passed. Therefore, a full FY 2014 budget was not approved in the first session of the 113th Congress. A continuing resolution carrying over the FY 2013 budget through 1/2014 was passed on 10/17/13. See *H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13 and *H.R. 2775 of 7/22/13.)

26 July 2013: Recognition of Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel Act

H.R. 2846, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 11 cosponsors.

This bill would move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Specifically, it would amend existing U.S. law (Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995) to remove the president's ability to perpetually delay the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. The existing law requires a presidential waiver every 6 months.

The legislation's core group of cosponsors was drawn from the congressional Israel Allies caucus, a bipartisan alliance of 34 legislators. They were supported by the Israel Allies Foundation, an international coalition of elected officials who support each other's public efforts to "mobilize political support for Israel based on Judeo-Christian values."

Last major action: 8/16/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Middle East and North Africa.

30 July 2013: Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding efforts by the U.S. to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict through a negotiated two-state solution

S. Res. 203, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), 7 cosponsors.

This resolution would commend Secy. of State John Kerry for his efforts in restarting negotiations and affirms that the U.S. is an "indispensable" mediator in the process.

It was introduced on the same day that 3-way procedural discussions took place in Washington between U.S., Israeli, and Palestinian negotiators.

At the annual J Street Conference lobby day, support for this resolution was a "key ask." Additional support also came from Americans for Peace Now.

See also: H. Res. 365 of 9/27/13.

Last major action: 7/30/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

30 July 2013: Dept. of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, FY 2014

H.R. 2855, Kay Granger (R-TX), no cosponsors.

See congressionalmonitor.org for a full summary of this bill and *H.R. 2775 of 7/22/13 for a summary of the appropriations for FY 2014.

See also: similar measure S. 1372 of 7/25/13.

Last major action: 7/30/13 House Cmte. on Appropriations reported an original measure. (Following months of holdups and debate, this bill, along with every other dept.-specific appropriations bill introduced for FY 2014, was not passed. Therefore, a full FY 2014 budget was not approved in the first session of the 113th Congress. A continuing resolution carrying over the FY 2013 budget through 1/2014 was passed on 10/17/13. See *H.R. 3547 of 11/20/13 and *H.R. 2775 of 7/22/13.)

30 July 2013: Holocaust Rail Justice Act of 2013

S. 1393, Charles Schumer (D-NY), 13 cosponsors.

See companion measure, H.R. 1505 of 4/11/13, for a full summary.

Last major action: 7/30/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on the Judiciary.

1 August 2013: To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres

H.R. 2939, Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA), 81 cosponsors.

Congress commissions gold medals as its highest expression of appreciation for distinguished achievements. This would be the first congressional gold medal awarded to a sitting Israeli president.

See also: S. 1456 of 8/1/13.

Last major action: 8/1/13 referred to House Cmte. on Financial Services.

1 August 2013: To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres

S. 1456, Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), 25 cosponsors.

See identical measure, H.R. 2939 of 8/1/13, for a full summary.

Last major action: 8/1/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

1 August 2013: Commemorating the 46th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem

H. Con. Res. 48, Joe Wilson (R-SC), 12 cosponsors.

Inter alia, this resolution calls on the president and secretary of state to publicly affirm that the capital of Israel is undivided Jerusalem and to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Last major action: 8/1/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

6 September 2013: Authorization for the Use of Military Force against the Government of Syria to Respond to Use of Chemical Weapons

S. J. Res. 21, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), no cosponsors.

In response to the documented use of chemical weapons in Syria, specifically on 8/21/13, Pres. Obama requested authorization from Congress for the use of U.S. force in a military intervention. This joint resolution was the vehicle for that congressional authorization.

Pres. Obama justified the proposed intervention as a necessary measure for upholding the international norm against the use of chemical weapons. As Secy. of State John Kerry and Defense Secy. Chuck Hagel made clear in congressional testimonies on 9/3/13 and 9/4/13, the resolution's primary objective was not to accelerate regime change in Syria. They did acknowledge, however, that degrading the Syrian government's ability to use chemical weapons would affect its ability to wage war against the rebel groups.

Specifically, this resolution would authorize the president to order the U.S. military to deter the use of chemical weapons and to degrade the Syrian regime's capacity to use such weapons in the future. It also includes a clause authorizing the military to restrict transfer of such weapons to terrorist groups. Though the tactical methods for accomplishing these goals are not listed in the resolution, they were widely broadcast in the media: limited missile strikes from U.S. navy vessels in the Mediterranean targeting Syrian chemical weapons facilities and depots.

In Congress, opponents of U.S. military intervention in Syria sought to restrict executive power by adding various clauses limiting the reach of this resolution. First, the authorization would be limited in terms of time, expiring 60 days after the resolution's passage, although it could be extended for an additional 30 days if the president deemed an extension necessary. The authorization would also be limited in scope, with the resolution stating that authorization for the

use of force would not include the use of U.S. armed forces “on the ground.” It would also install congressional oversight procedures on the proposed intervention, including a rigid reporting schedule that would require updates on the intervention 10 days after the bill’s passage and every 20 days after that.

On 9/3, AIPAC announced its support for the bill. The next week, the organization fully mobilized its congressional lobbyists and its grassroots network to pressure lawmakers into supporting the joint resolution. In a press release advocating support, AIPAC played its hand openly, stating “this is a critical moment when America must also send a forceful message of resolve to Iran and Hezbollah” (9/3/13). Although it originated before this resolution’s introduction, AIPAC’s campaign was actually perceived as a late entry into the debate over military intervention.

A final vote on this resolution was precluded by the emergence of another viable U.S. response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, offered up by a Russian proposal on 9/10 that international monitors take over and destroy Syria’s chemical weapons with the approval of the Syrian regime. At this point, Pres. Obama asked Congress to delay a vote on the resolution and allow for bilateral negotiations with Russia on its proposal. On 9/14, the joint U.S.-Russian proposal was released for a bilaterally enforced removal of Syria’s chemical weapons. The plan entailed UN Security Council review and stringent verification processes along with a rigid timetable that would see the full removal of chemical weapons from Syria by the end of 2014.

Informal polling of the House and Senate indicated that the resolution was facing a majority opposition in both chambers before the Russian proposal emerged.

See also: S. 960 of 5/15/13.

Last major action: 9/10/13 Senate floor actions. (9/6/13 passed in Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations by yea-nay vote, 10–7.)

9 September 2013: Prohibiting the use of funds available to any U.S. Government dept. or agency for the use of force in, or directed at, Syria by the U.S. Armed Forces

H. J. Res. 58, Ted Poe (R-TX), 12 cosponsors.

Citing data that showed a majority of Americans opposed U.S. intervention in Syria and the absence of overriding national security interests, this joint resolution would prohibit the use of any U.S. government funds for the use of military force in Syria.

Last major action: 9/9/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

9 September 2013: Immediate Establishment of Syrian War Crimes Tribunal Resolution

H. Con. Res. 51, Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), 19 cosponsors.

This resolution would state that the U.S. should, inter alia, urge a political resolution to the Syrian conflict, use the U.S. vote in the UN to bring war criminals to justice, and encourage other states to take similar actions.

Last major action: 9/17/13 sponsor introductory remarks on measure.

9 September 2013: A resolution calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Asad and others to be tried before the ICC for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity

S. Res. 219, Ben Cardin (D-MD), no cosponsors.

See also: related measure H. Res. 229 of 5/21/13.

Last major action: 9/9/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

9 September 2013: To repeal the War Powers Resolution

H.R. 3065, Scott Garrett (R-NJ), 2 cosponsors.

This bill would repeal the War Powers Resolution (H.J. Res. 524 of 5/3/73), which forbids the president from authorizing the use of U.S. armed forces for more than 90 days without a congressional declaration of war.

Though it does not mention any country by name, this resolution was relevant in light of the concurrent debate on U.S. intervention in Syria.

Last major action: 9/9/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Foreign Affairs and Rules.

10 September 2013: A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve U.S.-Israel energy cooperation, and for other purposes

S. 1491, Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA), 4 cosponsors.

This bill recognizes energy collaboration with Israel as a strategic interest of the U.S. and urges closer ties between the two, including governmental, economic, and academic programs.

Citing Israel's monumental discovery of an estimated 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Eastern Mediterranean in 12/2012, this bill would expand joint U.S.-Israel grant-making programs to include projects focused on natural gas. Such programs—including the Binational Industrial Research and Development Program and the Binational Science Foundation—would be authorized through 2024. The bill would also limit to 50% the federal share of funding for these programs and promote projects on water, oil, and gas technologies. Finally, the bill would authorize the establishment of a joint U.S.-Israeli center for research on energy technologies relevant to the new natural gas finds.

AIPAC lobbied for the passage of this bill.

See also: H.R. 3677 of 12/9/13 and H.R. 3683 of 12/10/13.

Last major action: 12/19/13 placed on Senate legislative calendar.

10 September 2013: Chemical Weapons Control and Accountability Resolution of 2013

S. J. Res. 22, Joe Manchin III (D-WV), 1 cosponsor.

This joint resolution presented an alternative U.S. response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria on 8/21/13. Rather than authorizing military intervention (see S.J. Res. 21 of 9/6/13), it would authorize the use of "all elements of national power" if the Syrian regime failed to sign and comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) of 1993 within 45 days.

In the case of such a failure, the resolution would require the president to formulate and deliver to Congress a comprehensive strategic plan on intervention in Syria, including goals, benchmarks, and a review of the current status.

The CWC of 1993 was an international agreement designed to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting any part of their production in the territories of the signatories.

Last major action: 9/10/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

11 September 2013: War Powers Amendments of 2013

H.J. Res. 60, Peter DeFazio (D-OR), 1 cosponsor.

In order to “fulfill the intent of the framers of the Constitution of the U.S.,” this resolution would restrict executive power to commit U.S. armed forces abroad.

Specifically, it would install an entirely new protocol for U.S. military engagement, altering the paradigm established by the War Powers Act of 1973. The new restrictions would, inter alia, require the president to consult with Congress after each instance of U.S. troop deployment, greatly restrict justifications for troop deployment, and install rigid new congressional oversight measures.

Though this resolution does not directly mention the Syrian conflict, its introduction was contemporaneous with the debate over U.S. intervention in Syria.

See also: H.R. 3065 of 9/9/13.

Last major action: 9/11/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Foreign Affairs and Rules.

11 September 2013: To prevent further use of chemical weapons in Syria

H. J. Res. 61, Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ), no cosponsors.

This joint resolution would authorize the use of military force in Syria only if the president certified to Congress that the Syrian regime had not surrendered its chemical weapons stockpiles and not signed on to the CWC of 1993.

Last major action: 9/11/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

12 September 2013: Urging all parties to the conflict in Syria to work through the UN and with the international community to hold the Asad regime accountable and resolve the crisis in Syria through a negotiated political settlement

H. Con. Res. 53, Barbara Lee (D-CA), 6 cosponsors.

Last major action: 9/12/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

***17 September 2013: To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the heroic rescue of the Danish Jews during the Second World War by the Danish people**

S. Res. 227, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution would commemorate the 1943 rescue of 7,300 Danish Jews from Nazi concentration camps. It also would declare that the world owes a “great debt” to the Danish people for perceiving the dangers of idle acquiescence.

Last major action: 10/4/13 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

24 September 2013: Expressing the sense of the Senate on steps the government of Iran must take before Pres. Obama meets with the president of Iran

S. Res. 252, Ted Cruz (R-TX), 1 cosponsor.

This resolution would express that Pres. Obama should not meet with Iran's Pres. Hassan Ruhani unless the government of Iran affirms the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state and immediately releases any prisoners of conscience in Iran.

It was introduced on the same day that Obama and Ruhani spoke before the UN General Assembly. Prior to the speeches, some media outlets had reported that Obama was hoping to meet with Ruhani to discuss U.S.-Iran relations. The two heads of state spoke by telephone on 9/27/13.

Last major action: 9/24/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

27 September 2013: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives commending efforts by the U.S. to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a negotiated two-state solution

H. Res. 365, Janice Schakowsky (D-IL), 108 cosponsors.

See similar measure S. Res. 203 of 7/30/13 for a summary of this resolution.

Last major action: 9/27/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

15 October 2013: U.S.-Iran Nuclear Negotiations Act

H.R. 3292, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 30 cosponsors.

Introduced on the same day that U.S. officials were holding diplomatic meetings with their Iranian counterparts in Geneva, this bill sought to establish policy goals to direct those negotiations and to create a military option for attaining those goals, should the negotiations fail.

While it would not authorize the use of military force, the bill would remove obstacles before a possible, future authorization by outlining the pre-conditions that nuclear negotiations must meet and establishing a series of qualifications on any settlement reached in the negotiations.

Specifically, the bill states that the following pre-conditions, which it describes as "national security interests," must be met for concurrent diplomatic efforts to proceed.

1. Iran permanently halts uranium enrichment.
2. Iran removes all uranium enriched to 20% or higher.
3. Iran closes the nuclear enrichment facility at Fordow, near Qom.
4. Iran ceases developing reactors and manufacturing or importing enrichment centrifuges.

The bill also stipulates the following as requirements for a possible nuclear settlement deal: Iran ceases developing ICBMs, allows IAEA officials "unfettered" access to its nuclear facilities, ceases all threats against the U.S. and Israel, and ends support for Hizballah, the Syrian regime, Hamas, and Shi'i militias in Iraq.

The bill would also enable the president to forbid access to U.S. capital markets and deny contract sales to any firm or person providing goods, services, or technology to Iran.

Last major action: 10/22/13 sponsor introductory remarks on measure.

16 October 2013: A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on U.S. policy regarding possession of enrichment and reprocessing capabilities by the Islamic Republic of Iran

S. Res. 269, Marco Rubio (R-FL), 12 cosponsors.

This resolution would state that Iran has no right to develop a nuclear weapon, that the U.S. should use any aspect of its power to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and that the sanctions on Iran should be increased until Iran gives up its nuclear program including enrichment and reprocessing capabilities.

Last major action: 10/16/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

****22 October 2013: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2014***

H.R. 3304, Theodore Deutch (D-FL), 82 cosponsors.

This annual bill must pass to give the Dept. of Defense legal authority to carry out activities. The relevant sections concern cooperative programs implemented by the Israeli and U.S. armed forces, and reactions to developments in Syria and Iran.

Following the failure of the Senate to pass its version of the NDAA (S. 1197 of 6/20/13) before adjourning for the Thanksgiving recess in 11/2013, members of both chambers met to negotiate a new NDAA. Reconciling elements of S. 1197 and the NDAA bill that the House passed on 6/14/13 (H.R. 1960 of 5/14/13), the bicameral talks included independent proposals by members of both parties. The final bill, a summary of which is presented below, was passed and signed into law on 12/26/13.

This summary lists only final authorizations and not Defense Dept. funding requests (see H.R. 1960 of 5/14/13 for initial requests).

MILITARY AID FOR ISRAEL

Carrying over language from the House version of the NDAA, this bill authorizes the Missile Defense Agency to spend up to \$489 m. on the development of joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs and the Iron Dome missile defense system (\$268.7 m. of which would go to the joint programs specifically). Of this total, \$149.7 m. was allocated to the David's Sling system, \$74.7 m. to the development of the Arrow 3 upper tier interceptor, and \$44.3 m. to improve the Arrow program. The remaining \$220.3 m. would be for Israel to procure additional Iron Dome interceptors and batteries.

The bill also authorizes an additional \$15 m. for the production of Iron Dome missile defense systems inside the U.S., an unprecedented provision which the Israeli government supported. As a corollary, the director of the Missile Defense Agency is required to submit a report to Congress on the agency's plan for initiating production of the Iron Dome.

Finally, the bill requires the defense secretary to submit a report to Congress on the status of missile defense cooperation between the U.S. and Israel.

REACTING TO THE CRISIS IN SYRIA

In order to organize a coherent U.S. response to the ongoing crisis in Syria, the bill specifies a variety of activities and new oversight procedures.

It authorizes \$13 m. from the Cooperative Threat Reduction fund for the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria. In connection with that authorization, the bill requires the Defense Dept. to develop a cooperative threat reduction strategy for weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and North Africa. It also authorizes training and equipment for regional partners' WMD responses.

Additionally, the bill authorizes up to \$150 m. in assistance for Jordan, specifically to reimburse the Jordanian government for expenses relating to the maintenance and security of its border with Syria. The secretary of defense is required to submit a report to Congress describing the provision and handling of that \$150 m., including a timeline.

Moreover, unless the defense secretary waives this provision for reasons of national security, the bill forbids the transfer of any funds authorized in this act to Rosoboronexport. Rosoboronexport is the state intermediary agency for the import and export of Russian arms. It was widely reported to be the primary supplier of the Syrian government's munitions, though Russia maintains that all exports to Syria were of a defensive nature and reflected long-standing agreements. If the defense secretary does exercise the waiver, he must submit a report to Congress on the company's contracts with the Syrian government stipulating how many S-300 anti-aircraft missiles the company has supplied to Syria, if any. In a noteworthy exception, the bill allows for the Defense Dept. to contract with Rosoboronexport to deliver helicopter parts to the Afghan national security forces.

MANAGING RELATIONS WITH IRAN

In recognition of the continued threat posed by Iran, the bill expands reporting requirements and congressional oversight of relations with Iran.

Specifically, it authorizes the expansion of the annual Iran Military Power Report to include an assessment of how international terrorist and criminal groups operate within and in relation to Iran's "grand strategy." The bill also requires the Defense Dept. to deliver a new report on U.S. military partnerships with GCC countries.

Unlike previous versions of the 2014 NDAA, this bill does *not* expand or tighten sanctions on Iran.

Unlike the House version of the NDAA (H.R. 1960), this bill does *not* authorize \$3 b. for the construction of a missile defense site on the East Coast of the U.S. However, it does require the Defense Dept. to continue briefing Congress on the environmental assessments for the possible future construction of such a site, including a contingency development plan.

One other noteworthy provision of the bill states that "nothing in this act shall be construed as authorizing the use of force against Syria or Iran."

See also: H.R. 1960 of 5/14/13, S. 1034 of 5/23/13, and S. 1197 of 6/20/13.

Last major action: 12/26/13 signed into law by the president. (10/28/13 passed in House by a voice vote; 12/19/13 Senate agreed to the House amendment.)

****31 October 2013: A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to immediately release Saeed Abedini and all other individuals detained on account of their religious beliefs***

S. Res. 284, James E. Risch (R-ID), 11 cosponsors.

See similar measure H. Res. 147 of 4/10/13 for a full summary.

Last major action: 11/14/13 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

***11 November 2013: A resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or the Night of the Broken Glass**

S. Res. 290, Ben Cardin (D-MD), 8 cosponsors.

Last major action: 11/12/13 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

12 November 2013: Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2014

S. 1681, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), no cosponsors.

This bill provides legal authority for all intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government in FY 2014, including those performed by the CIA, and the Depts. of Defense and State.

The bulk of the bill contains measures irrelevant to Israel, the Palestinians, and the Middle East. There is 1 relatively minor measure, however, regarding congressional oversight of Syria. It would require the national intelligence director to file a report on the status of Syrian chemical weapon disarmament every 90 days until all the weapons are verifiably destroyed. In addition to basic intelligence updates on the disarmament, the report is required to provide an assessment of any “denial and deception on the part of the Syrian regime.”

Last major action: 11/13/13 reported by Sen. Feinstein from cmte.

14 November 2013: Syria Sanctions Enhancement Act of 2013

S. 1714, Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), 3 cosponsors.

This bill would strengthen existing sanctions—and impose new sanctions—on entities determined to be facilitating the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Specifically, new sanctions would be placed on financial institutions doing business with the Syrian government. (In his statement introducing the bill, Blumenthal specifically mentioned the Russian banks, VTB, VEB, and Gazprombank.) The bill would also place sanctions on individuals doing business with the Syrian government, specifically arms dealers. Finally, the bill would require the president to provide a list of individuals who would be subject to new sanctions: abusers of human rights in Syria and their enablers, those complicit in the proliferation of chemical weapons in Syria, and senior Syrian officials or others with investments in the Syrian government.

Last major action: 11/14/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

***19 November 2013: Congratulating the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) on the Celebration of its 100th Anniversary and Commending its Significant Contribution to Empower and Revitalize Developing Communities around the World**

S. Res. 299, Charles Schumer (D-NY), 28 cosponsors.

The JDC is a worldwide Jewish relief organization based in New York City. It works in partnership with the Israeli government to provide assistance to Jews in need anywhere in the world.

Last major action: 12/13/13 agreed to in Senate by unanimous consent.

21 November 2013: Support of Israel against Existential Threat Resolution of 2013

S. Con. Res. 27, Pat Toomey (R-PA), no cosponsors.

Citing the “existential threat” to Israel posed by the Iranian nuclear program, this resolution would call on the U.S. to ensure that Israel is adequately prepared to defend itself. It would also assert U.S. support for Israel’s right to defend itself from the “grave threat” posed by S-300 air defense systems in Syria.

See also: S.A. 2454 to S. 1197 of 6/20/13.

Last major action: 11/21/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

21 November 2013: Iran Nuclear Compliance Act of 2013

S. 1765, Bob Corker (R-TN), 3 cosponsors.

Presented in the context of concurrent negotiations with Iran, this bill would deny the president the power to waive any sanctions on Iran for 8 months unless he can certify that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the U.S. and that Iran is in full compliance with any interim nuclear deal. After the 8-month stipulation, the president may only waive sanctions if, inter alia, Iran is in full compliance with the final agreement reached and all 6 relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Unlike similar sanctions-related measures introduced around the same time (see amendments to S. 1197 of 6/20/13), this bill would *not* impose new sanctions, *nor* would it institute a congressional veto over a diplomatic agreement with Iran. It would simply increase congressional leverage over the negotiations and restrict the parameters of a possible agreement, in a tactic favored at the time by some pro-Israel lobbying groups, including AIPAC.

See also: S.A. 2512 to S. 1197 of 6/20/13.

Last major action: 11/21/13 referred to Senate Cmte. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

2 December 2013: Israel Sovereignty and Security Recognition Act

H.R. 3629, Trent Franks (R-AZ), 8 cosponsors.

In addition to conveying the sense of Congress that Israel has a right to the Golan Heights and that Jerusalem is its capital, this bill would eliminate the president’s authority to delay the relocation of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Last major action: 12/2/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

5 December 2013: Calling on the U.S. Senate to increase sanctions against Iran

H. Res. 431, Steven Scalise (R-LA), 55 cosponsors.

This resolution would resolve that it is U.S. policy to stop Iran from attaining nuclear weapons capability. It would also call on the Senate to take action on the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013 (H.R. 850 of 2/27/13).

Last major action: 12/5/13 referred to House Cmtes. on Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means.

9 December 2013: Calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this [sic] case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held U.S. civilians in our Nation's history

S. Res. 312, Bill Nelson (R-FL), 1 cosponsor.

Robert Levinson, a retired FBI officer, was last seen on Kish Island, Iran, on 3/9/07 before he was kidnapped and held by unknown assailants.

This resolution was introduced in response to Iranian president Ruhani's statement (9/28/13), "We are willing to help, and all the intelligence services in the region can come together to gather information about [Levinson] to find his whereabouts. And we're willing to cooperate on that."

In the days following this resolution's introduction, news reports were published alleging that Levinson was involved with the CIA when he went missing in Iran.

Last major action: 12/18/13 reported by Sen. Menendez (D-NJ) from the Senate Cmte. on Foreign Relations.

9 December 2013: A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve U.S.-Israel energy cooperation, and for other purposes

H.R. 3677, Fred Upton (R-MI), 4 cosponsors.

See similar bill S. 1491 of 9/10/13 for a summary of this measure.

See also: H.R. 3683 of 12/9/13.

Last major action: 12/13/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Energy.

9 December 2013: A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve U.S.-Israel energy cooperation, and for other purposes

H.R. 3683, Fred Upton (R-MI), 7 cosponsors.

This bill was a reintroduction of H.R. 3677 of 12/9/13, with minor changes.

See similar bill S. 1491 of 9/10/13 for a summary of this measure.

Last major action: 12/13/13 referred to House Subcmte. on Energy.

12 December 2013: Urging the P5+1 to only accept a final nuclear agreement with Iran that definitively prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability, ceases Iran's construction of advanced missiles and warheads, suspends Iran's support for terrorist organizations, and reduces human rights violations within Iran

H. Res. 445, Peter Roskam (R-IL), 3 cosponsors.

Last major action: 12/12/13 referred to House Cmte. on Foreign Affairs.

18 December 2013: Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013

S. 1857, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), no cosponsors.

This bill would reform U.S. assistance to Egypt, installing new congressional oversight procedures, conditionality, and other restrictions. These measures, if passed, would lift the hold on military aid to Egypt put in place after the military overthrow of Pres. Morsi in 7/2013.

Specifically, the bill would amend existing U.S. law forbidding the transfer of aid to a government in which a democratically elected leader is deposed by a military coup. The new language would allow, in those situations, for U.S. aid to support democratization activities or democratic elections.

The bill would condition economic aid and any sale or transfer of U.S. military equipment on, *inter alia*, Egypt upholding its 1979 peace treaty with Israel and making democratic reforms, excluding military articles designated for use in counterterrorism activities. These conditions would terminate on 9/30/16 if the secretary of state certified that Egypt was upholding the 1979 peace treaty, countering terrorism in Sinai, permitting U.S. armed forces to transit Egyptian territory, and holding regular elections. In addition to the time limitation and the new conditions on aid, the bill would designate certain amounts of annual aid to Egypt be spent on democratization programs.

In terms of new oversight procedures, this bill would require reporting on each of the provisions above, in addition to requiring the secretary of state to submit to Congress a comprehensive strategy for modernizing and improving U.S. security cooperation with Egypt. Also, disbursement or alteration of aid to Egypt would require consultation with the Cmte. on Foreign Relations, in addition to the Appropriations Cmte.

Sen. Menendez also submitted this measure as an amendment to the Senate's NDAA (see S.A. 2522 of 11/21/13 to S. 1197).

Last major action: 12/18/13 placed on Senate legislative calendar after consideration by the Senate Foreign Relations Cmte.

19 December 2013: Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013

S. 1881, Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 58 cosponsors.

Purportedly designed to alleviate distrust of Iran's commitment to the 6-month interim nuclear deal, this bill would increase and expand sanctions if Iran violated the deal or allowed it to expire without agreeing to a comprehensive follow-up accord.

New measures would include, but not be limited to, an expansion of the list of sanctioned Iranian individuals, new sanctions on Iranian ports and shipping, and amendments to strengthen previous sanctions laws. This last stipulation would threaten to ban international banks and companies from U.S. markets if they help Iran export oil.

If a final agreement were reached, this bill would require the president to certify annually that Iran was upholding the deal. If the president were unable to do so, the expanded sanctions regime would be reenacted with full force. Furthermore, the bill would dictate a list of specific requirements to be included in any final agreement, including the verifiable dismantlement of Iran's enrichment and reprocessing capabilities and facilities. It would also require negotiators to consult with relevant congressional cmtes. on those requirements.

One noteworthy inclusion in the non-binding "findings" section of the bill would declare that the U.S. should "stand with Israel" and provide it with diplomatic, military, and economic support if Israel launched a preventive strike against Iran.

According to the 6-month interim deal with Iran, if the U.S. imposed new sanctions within the 6-month interim period, then Iran would be free of its commitment to halt enrichment. In accordance with that provision, the Obama administration lobbied Congress to abstain from

introducing or passing new sanctions legislation, and this bill in particular. The administration made clear that it would veto any new sanctions bill that was passed. In keeping with the administration's stance, Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-NV) refused to allow a vote on a sanctions amendment to the NDAA (S. 1197 of 6/20/13) and Chairman of the Senate Banking Cmte. Tim Johnson (D-SD) decided not to bring a new sanctions bill up in his cmte. Also, 10 Senate cmte. chairs signed a public letter expressing opposition to the bill. Ultimately, Reid did not schedule a vote on this bill in the first session of the 113th Congress.

Despite the Obama administration's efforts, the bill became a vehicle for bipartisan support of new sanctions on Iran in the Senate. Considering the overwhelming support for new sanctions in the House (see H.R. 850 of 2/27/13), it was widely expected to be passed on to the president if it passed in the Senate. So many senators cosponsored the bill within weeks of its introduction that speculation in the media abounded on the possibility of it passing with enough support to override the president's veto (a two-thirds majority vote).

This bill was strongly supported by AIPAC. Throughout 1/2014, the front page of AIPAC's website greeted visitors with a link to a dedicated page explaining the group's support for this bill. That section included a 3-minute video, explaining the bill's purpose. Furthermore, during Congress's holiday recess, AIPAC kept a running tally on its website of Senators who had pledged to cosponsor or oppose the bill.

See also: H.R. 850 of 2/27/13, S. 1197 of 6/20/13, and *H.R. 3304 of 10/22/13.

Last major action: 12/20/13 placed on Senate legislative calendar.