

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 111

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 5, 2009

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of
the State of Israel.

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its
independence;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to
recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from
all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the rocket attacks that have occurred in Israel in recent years have caused hundreds of casualties and have destroyed homes, schools, buildings, roads, power lines, and other significant infrastructure;

Whereas Israel has signed landmark peace treaties and successfully established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan;

Whereas despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas Iran, which rejects Israel's right to exist as a nation, is a continued threat to Israel's safety and security,

both through its support of terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and through its ongoing efforts to acquire nuclear weapons;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 29, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the independence of the State of
4 Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and
5 a national homeland for the Jewish people and in es-
6 tablishing a democracy in the Middle East;

7 (2) commends the bipartisan commitment of all
8 United States administrations and United States
9 Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work
10 for its security and well-being;

11 (3) congratulates the United States and Israel
12 for the strengthening of bilateral relations in recent
13 years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and home-
14 land security, and encourages both nations to con-

