

I addressed the General Assembly, some ten years ago or more. I gave my address, entitled "Will the World Ever Learn?" and I came out with a very sad answer: "no." Because it hasn't learned yet. Had the world learned, there would have been no Rwanda, and no Darfur, and no genocide, and no mass murder. It hasn't learned, otherwise there would be no antisemitism today. Antisemitism is the most irrational, absurd emotion that one can encounter. Somewhere, anywhere, there is someone who hates me, although he or she never met me. He or she hated me before I was born, and here it is, still practiced in certain places.

But then because of our experience we must feel—and we have felt—those who suffer today from all kinds of diseases. Take children. What you said about my little sister is true: I cannot speak about her without shedding tears. Because of her, my major preoccupation are the children of the world. Whenever I espouse a human rights cause it always has to do with children. Every minute that we spend here tonight, somewhere on this planet a child dies of hunger, of disease, of violence, or of indifference.

Life is not made of years. Life is made of moments. Sara, you called them "formative moments." I simply say moments. At the end of my life, when I come to heaven, and there will be a scale, my good deeds, my other deeds, it's not my years that will be on the scale, but the moments. Some are good, glorious. Others are less so. Nothing of my life in this project—most of that experience was as rewarding. Every moment has its weight, has its meaning, and has left its legacy here in this extraordinary experience which the Museum is for anyone who enters it.

I remember during the inauguration, what President Clinton mentioned. I turned to him and I said he must do something about Sarajevo, about the tragedy in Bosnia. It was Clinton who later on, on television, spoke about the role of the citizen. And he simply said, "you want to know what a simple citizen can do? A simple citizen can change America's policy in the Balkans." He turned to me and said, "He did it."

What we can do with memory is of incommensurable importance. We really can change the world. And so, for these moments and for your kindness and for all the commitment to remembrance which is the noblest endeavor a human being can undertake: simply to remember the dead. To forget the dead would mean not only to betray them but to give them a second death, to kill them again. We couldn't prevent the first death, but the second one we can, and therefore we must.

And so, whenever we deal with memory, you should think that the pillow under your head is burning.

Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOAL OF ENSURING THAT ALL HOLOCAUST VICTIMS LIVE WITH DIGNITY, COMFORT, AND SECURITY IN THEIR REMAINING YEARS

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 46) expressing support for the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years, and urging the Federal Republic of Germany to continue to reaffirm its commitment to comprehensively address the unique health and welfare needs of vulnerable Holocaust victims, including home care and other medically prescribed needs.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 46

Whereas the annihilation of 6,000,000 Jews during the Holocaust and the murder of millions of others by the Nazi German state constitutes one of the most tragic and heinous crimes in human history;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Jews survived persecution by the Nazi regime despite being imprisoned, subjected to slave labor, moved into ghettos, forced to live in hiding or under false identity or curfew, or required to wear the "yellow star";

Whereas in fear of the oncoming Nazi Einsatzgruppen, or "Nazi Killing Squads", and the likelihood of extermination, hundreds of thousands of Jewish Nazi victims fled for their lives;

Whereas whatever type of persecution suffered by Jews during the Holocaust, the common thread that binds Holocaust victims is that they were targeted for extermination and they lived with a constant fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas Holocaust victims immigrated to the United States from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and the former Soviet Union between 1933 and the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas it is estimated that there are at least 100,000 Holocaust victims living in the United States and approximately 500,000 Holocaust victims living around the world, including child survivors of the Holocaust;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust victims are at least 80 years old, and the number of surviving Holocaust victims is diminishing;

Whereas at least 50 percent of Holocaust victims alive today will pass away within the next decade, and those living victims are becoming frailer and have increasing health and welfare needs;

Whereas Holocaust victims throughout the world continue to suffer from permanent physical and psychological injuries and disabilities and live with the emotional scars of a systematic genocide against the Jewish people;

Whereas many of the emotional and psychological scars of Holocaust victims are exacerbated in the old age of the Holocaust victims;

Whereas the past haunts and overwhelms many aspects of the lives of Holocaust victims when their health fails them;

Whereas Holocaust victims suffer particular trauma when their emotional and physical circumstances force them to leave the security of their homes and enter insti-

tutional or other group living residential facilities;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust victims live in poverty and cannot afford, and do not receive, sufficient medical care, home care, mental health care, medicine, food, transportation, and other vital life-sustaining services that allow individuals to live their final years with comfort and dignity;

Whereas Holocaust victims often lack family support networks and require social worker-supported case management in order to manage their daily lives and access government-funded services;

Whereas in response to a letter sent by Members of Congress to the Minister of Finance of Germany in December 2015 relating to increased funding for Holocaust victims, German officials acknowledged that "recent experience has shown that the care financed by the German Government to date is insufficient" and that "it is imperative to expand these assistance measures quickly given the advanced age of many of the affected persons";

Whereas German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer acknowledged, in 1951, the responsibility of Germany to provide moral and financial compensation to Holocaust victims worldwide;

Whereas every successive German Chancellor has reaffirmed that acknowledgment, including Chancellor Angela Merkel, who, in 2007, reaffirmed that "only by fully accepting its enduring responsibility for this most appalling period and for the cruelest crimes in its history, can Germany shape the future";

Whereas, in 2015, the spokesperson of Chancellor Angela Merkel confirmed that "all Germans know the history of the murderous race mania of the Nazis that led to the break with civilization that was the Holocaust . . . we know the responsibility for this crime against humanity is German and very much our own"; and

Whereas Congress believes it is the moral and historical responsibility of Germany to comprehensively, permanently, and urgently provide resources for the medical, mental health, and long-term care needs of all Holocaust victims: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) acknowledges the financial and moral commitment of the Federal Republic of Germany over the past seven decades to provide a measure of justice for Holocaust victims; and

(2) supports the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims in the United States and around the world are able to live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to start by thanking Senator NELSON for advancing this

measure through the other body. I would also like to recognize the good work of Chairman Emeritus ROS-LEHTINEN as well as Congressman DEUTCH for their companion resolution which passed this body in June with the unanimous support of our colleagues.

The horrors wrought by the Nazi regime did not end when the prisoners finally walked out from behind the barbed wire fences in 1945. The aftereffects of Hitler's death camps still haunt the lives of those who remain.

Tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors throughout the world live in poverty. The problem is staggering. There are 195,000 survivors and their families, according to the Registry of Holocaust Survivors, that remain. Most of those survivors, original survivors, are in their eighties today. The world loses 1,000 of those survivors every month.

But today, more than one in four lack sufficient access to or funds for necessary medical, home care, mental health care, medicine, and transportation—essential tools which would allow them to live their final years in comfort and in dignity.

For decades, Germany has instituted and funded a number of aid programs in recognition of its moral obligation to guarantee for those survivors—to guarantee—a chance at such a life. However, as they age, Holocaust victims' health and assistance needs—already more demanding than those of their peers—evolve and intensify. German evaluations of government programs this year exposed gaps in home care, in mental health programs, and in long-term medical care, and this must be remedied.

Chancellor Merkel has acknowledged Germany's responsibility to those who survived Hitler's terror. The government has also affirmed that more must be done. A high-level working group was recently established to develop proposals for more extensive assistance for home care and for social welfare needs, but the negotiations for these changes, these program changes, under German law have stalled.

Time is of the essence. Every day that decisions are stalled, we lose another survivor, we lose another story, and we lose another chance to show our respect for those individuals who have already endured what no one should. That is why our ranking member, ELIOT ENGEL, and I are supportive of this measure and would urge all Members to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

I want to thank the chairman, as always, for being so cooperative and important in passing this legislation. I want to thank my friends from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. DEUTCH,

who introduced the House companion to this resolution, which I was proud to cosponsor and which passed the House in June.

Mr. Speaker, there are roughly a half million survivors of the Holocaust alive today—many people think it is not much, but it is, a half million—all over the world. Many of these men and women are now reaching their eighties and nineties, and some even older.

These individuals, of course, lived through the darkest chapter in human history. They endured unspeakable horrors, and many still suffer the physical and emotional trauma stemming from that experience. So it is absolutely tragic that so many survivors today are forced to live in poverty with inadequate health care, food, and access to transportation. It is unconscionable that, at the end of their lives, these people find themselves without adequate support.

Now, the Government of Germany accepts responsibility to support these survivors and, over the decades, has done a great deal, but even their officials acknowledge that more needs to be done. This resolution calls on the authorities in Germany to make sure every Holocaust survivor has the support and resources they need to live in dignity.

We know it is never easy for a government to dig deeper, but in the case of this generation of survivors, there should not be any question that they should be able to live out their lives without worrying over how to pay the medical bills or the grocery bills. It is important that we do this. I am glad to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, our wonderful chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for the time, and I thank the ranking member as well. What a joy it has been to work with my Florida colleague, TED DEUTCH, on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, we have before us a concurrent resolution introduced by our wonderful Florida Senator, BILL NELSON. This measure follows a similar bipartisan resolution that my south Florida friend, TED DEUTCH, and I introduced earlier this year, which this body passed unanimously in June. The vote was 363-0.

I want to thank Senator NELSON as well as Senator COLLINS for taking the lead on this initiative in the Senate and for the Senate taking action, passing this important resolution, and bringing it back to us. I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their support on this measure and helping it get to the floor today.

This bipartisan resolution, Mr. Speaker, is simple, but it is so impor-

tant. It calls on Germany to honor its moral and historical obligations to all Holocaust survivors and to provide for their unmet needs immediately and comprehensively. That is something that is going to happen thanks to all of the good men and women here.

For TED, for Senator NELSON, and for me, this issue hits very close to home, Mr. Speaker. As Members of Congress from the State of Florida, we represent thousands of Holocaust survivors. Some 15,000 are estimated to be living in south Florida alone.

But it hits even closer to home today. Why? Because, when I spoke on this floor in June in support of the version that Mr. DEUTCH and I introduced in the House, I mentioned several of the Holocaust survivors whom TED and I have been honored to call our dear friends. Among them was a remarkable and incomparable gentleman named Jack Rubin. Sadly, Jack passed away July 11, at the age of 88.

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Jack and his two sisters survived the unimaginable, Mr. Speaker—the atrocities of humanity's darkest period. Jack managed to survive the nightmares of Auschwitz and three other death camps, four in total, until he was, as he testified in Congress in 2008, "liberated on May 1, 1945, from hell, by the U.S. Army."

Once Jack came to the United States, he served in the U.S. Army. That is how much he loved his new country.

For all that Jack had witnessed, for all that Jack had lived through, somehow he drew strength from his trials and tribulations and became a leading force in the fight for justice and dignity for all Holocaust survivors. And on this issue that we have before us today, Mr. Speaker, Jack was an unwavering voice and a force for justice. He led the call for Germany to honor its commitments to provide for all of the survivors' medical, mental, and home care needs.

Thankfully, Jack lived to see the House pass our resolution. He even lived to see the Claims Conference in Germany announce an alleged major expansion in home care for Holocaust survivors.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think that if Jack were here today, he would say: But we must do more.

You see, as part of the heralded announcement by the Claims Conference in Germany, Germany was supposed to lift the home care caps for all concentration camp and ghetto survivors.

Yet, the sad truth is, Mr. Speaker, according to the reports that we have seen, this claim is just not true, and many survivors are still subjected to arbitrary caps on home care hours, some even having their weekly hours reduced.

What has happened?

To make matters worse, the Claims Conference in Germany's recent negotiations did not even address the horrendous shortfalls in funding for emergency services such as medicine, medical care, dental care, hearing aids, and other vital services for survivors. This omission is inexcusable, Mr. Speaker. It will cause further needless suffering and deaths among survivors in need of help.

Germany has an obligation to do better than that, and I am optimistic that it will. We have an obligation to Holocaust survivors to do better to ensure that they live out their days in the dignity and comfort that they deserve.

What does this mean, Mr. Speaker?

It means full funding for all health and welfare needs for all survivors. That is why this resolution before us today is so timely and so important.

My friend, Jack Rubin—and I know that he was Mr. DEUTCH's friend as well—dedicated his life to justice for all Holocaust survivors. It is up to us to keep fighting for all the Jack Rubins of the world to continue Jack's legacy until justice is finally won. I will keep fighting for Jack's legacy and for all survivors.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and to support this resolution. We must urge our German friends to do more, to do the right thing for all Holocaust survivors. Passing this resolution will send a strong message that we believe the job is not yet done and that more must be done.

Those of us—like Mr. DEUTCH, like Mr. ROYCE, and like Mr. ENGEL—who have been in the forefront—Senators NELSON and COLLINS—the fight for Holocaust survivors' rights, needs, and interests are grateful for the unanimous support of our colleagues in the House and in the Senate for these resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, it has been over 70 years since humanity's darkest period, yet many survivors today still face lingering injustices of the Holocaust. We have had opportunities to address these injustices and, indeed, we have had an obligation to address them and to try to fix the wrongs of the past.

Germany has acknowledged its responsibility and its obligations to Holocaust survivors. Congress has acknowledged that we have a moral obligation to survivors—many of whom are American citizens, many of whom are our constituents, and many of whom live today at or below the poverty line.

We must acknowledge that too many Holocaust survivors are forced, even today, over 70 years later, to continue to suffer the injustices of the past and the indifference of the present. But for the survivors who remain and for all whom we have lost, we must—and we are here today—take a stand. We hope Chancellor Merkel of Germany and the German Government will hear our pleas for action and take them to heart so that the remaining survivors may live out their lives in the comfort and the dignity that they deserve.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would say that if we are going to stand for justice for all survivors, then we must also acknowledge the other still unresolved injustices being inflicted on Holocaust survivors in our time—specifically, the act of being denied their day in court. It is simply unconscionable that insurance companies such as Allianz and Generali have managed to dishonor tens of thousands of insurance policies they sold to Jews in Europe before the Holocaust, and continue to deny Holocaust survivors and their families these paid-for obligations. To this day, they refuse to acknowledge this.

The obligations of the insurers are moral and financial. I believe it is imperative that this Congress rectify the unfortunate reality that makes Holocaust survivors second-class citizens by denying them access to U.S. courts to attempt to reclaim these family legacies.

It is quite simply a right they have been denied far too long. We cannot bring them back, we cannot correct the problems that happened in the past, but we can correct them now, Mr. Speaker. We can correct them for the heirs who deserve justice. It is within our power to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues in Congress for supporting this resolution. I thank them for lending their voices to the cause of justice for all Holocaust survivors. This is just one step—it is an important step—in the long road to justice. I implore my friends and colleagues to continue to do more in support for all Holocaust survivors.

I thank my good friend, the chairman of our committee, for this time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to first congratulate my colleague from south Florida for her outstanding statement and her outstanding work.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and an author of the House companion to this resolution.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends, Ranking Member ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE, for their efforts. A sincere thanks to my dear friend, Chairman LEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her partnership on this effort, her unyielding commitment to seeing that there is justice. She has been a tireless advocate for Holocaust survivors and the entire community. I also want to thank our Florida colleague, Senator BILL NELSON, and Senator COLLINS, for spearheading this effort in the Senate. We share a deep commitment to ensuring that every survivor can live out his or her life with dignity. It is a commitment that was inspired each and every day by those in our own communities. But for me, especially, it was a commitment inspired every day by our great friend and Holocaust survivor, my constituent, Jack Rubin.

Jack survived Auschwitz and three other death camps before he was liberated at age 16. He was the only member of his family to survive.

For decades, Jack fought for the needs of the survivor community. He fought for the right to seek justice. He was a voice for so many of those who had no one to speak for them. He traveled to Washington, D.C., many times at his own expense, well into his eighties. He testified in front of Congress. For me, Jack was a friend and a mentor. He was a cheerleader, he was an eternal optimist. He believed that it wasn't too late, it was never too late, to make a real difference in the lives of those who had suffered history's greatest tragedy.

When the House version of this resolution passed back in June, Jack was watching from his home in Boynton Beach, Florida. When I returned to my office from speaking on the floor, I had a message from Jack telling me that he had tears in his eyes as he watched the House vote and that it was the best birthday present he could have asked for.

Jack Rubin passed away in July, just days before the Senate passed this resolution. His wife, Shirley, his children, and especially his grandchildren, understood the commitment that he made throughout his lifetime to help those in need, especially in the survivor community. And while significant progress has been made on survivor care, Jack did not, unfortunately, live to see the day when every Holocaust survivor has his or her medical and mental health care needs met. So we continue this fight. We will press on, and passing this resolution today is the first step in continuing the legacy of my friend, Jack Rubin.

When the House passed a version of this resolution in June, we were awaiting the results of a special round of negotiations between the German Government and the Claims Conference. In December 2015, the Government of Germany acknowledged the significant gap in funding for survivor care. As a result, Germany agreed to a new, high-level working group that would conduct additional negotiations aimed to close the gap for funding of home care needs.

In an effort to make clear the severity of the needs and the critical importance of these negotiations, Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN and I introduced the House companion to this resolution. The introduction and passage of that resolution, which urged the German Government to fulfill its moral and financial obligations to victims of the Holocaust, sent a very clear message to our German friends that the U.S. Congress was watching these negotiations. As we watched, a significant increase in home care funding was announced for 2016 and 2017, and a new agreement reached for 2018. Arbitrary caps placed on the number of home care hours allowed were also lifted. This is a commendable step forward, but there are still so many unmet needs.

I am deeply appreciative of the decades-long commitment of the German Government to caring for survivors. I

have spoken directly to Chancellor Merkel about this commitment, and I know that it is personal for her. I want our German friends to understand that this isn't about getting to a specific dollar figure. This is about continuing to meet all needs for a very small, very fragile part of the population that is rapidly aging.

This is the last chance to make sure that those who suffered through the most horrific crimes against humanity are cared for. Survivors are in their eighties, nineties, and into their one hundreds. There is a finite amount of time left. This is not an indefinite commitment on the part of Germany.

The resolution before us today continues to support the goal of ensuring that all Holocaust victims in the United States and around the world are able to live with dignity, comfort, and security in their remaining years.

No amount of money can ever erase the tragedies of the past. No amount of money is ever a substitute for justice. But the day-to-day suffering of this very vulnerable population can be eased. The needs of elderly survivors are exacerbated by their physical and mental experiences during the Holocaust. Leaving their own homes for institutionalized care is often not an option. The tragic loss of many family members at the hands of Nazis means that many survivors rely on social services for meal deliveries or rides to doctor appointments. These are the most basic of human needs, and they deserve to have them met.

I want to thank my friend, Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, and I want to thank Ranking Member ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE for their support, and Senator NELSON and Senator COLLINS for their efforts in the Senate.

I want to urge my colleagues to join us in urging Germany to ensure basic dignity and comfort for survivors.

When you look into the eyes of survivors in my district, as I do quite often, they worry about others. They say: Never again.

But we should worry about them. For their remaining time on this Earth, they deserve peace through living out their lives with dignity. Germany can help make sure that they do. Jack Rubin knew and fought for that literally until his last breath, and this resolution commits Congress to that fight for dignity.

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Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Our colleagues have been very eloquent this afternoon, and I agree with everything that has been said here, along with what the chairman has said.

Mr. Speaker, every year we lose more and more of those who lived through the Holocaust, and it is unthinkable that many spend their last days in poverty with no support network. Nobody wants that.

With this resolution, we are simply saying that this should not be the case.

We are saying that these survivors should never go without assistance and resources and that it is time for the Government of Germany to work with its partners and correct this problem.

So for all the reasons that were mentioned, I support this measure. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

So I think, for the Members here, we all understand that we have to commit to do all we can to honor and to support those survivors who are still with us. Their stories serve as testaments to the consequences of doing nothing in the face of evil.

Within these victims' lifetimes, we have already seen the minimization and the outright denial of the nightmares visited personally upon them during the Holocaust. We have already seen those who deny the existence of the Holocaust, as Iran did in May of this year again when it hosted yet another denial of the Holocaust and Holocaust cartoon contest.

We owe it to those who suffered through Hitler's genocide to empower them to live the remainder of their lives in dignity and to hold to Elie Wiesel's pledge: that we shall never forget.

I urge every Member's support for this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 46.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 729) expressing support for the expeditious consideration and finalization of a new, robust, and long-term Memorandum of Understanding on military assistance to Israel between the United States Government and the Government of Israel.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 729

Whereas in April 1998 the United States designated Israel as a "major non-NATO ally";

Whereas, on August 16, 2007, the United States and Israel signed a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on United States military assistance to Israel, the total assistance over the course of this understanding would equal \$30,000,000,000;

Whereas since the signing of the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding, intelligence and defense cooperation has continued to grow;

Whereas, on October 15, 2008, the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2008 was signed into law (Public Law 110-429) and defined Israel's qualitative military edge (QME) as "the ability to counter and defeat any credible conventional military threat from any individual state or possible coalition of states or from non-state actors, while sustaining minimal damage and casualties, through the use of superior military means, possessed in sufficient quantity, including weapons, command, control, communication, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities that in their technical characteristics are superior in capability to those of such other individual or possible coalition of states or non-state actors";

Whereas, on July 27, 2012, the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-150) declared it to be the policy of the United States "to help the Government of Israel preserve its qualitative military edge amid rapid and uncertain regional political transformation";

Whereas Israel faces immediate threats to its security from the United States designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, Hezbollah, and its missile and rocket stockpile estimated to number around 150,000, and from the United States designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, Hamas, that continues to attempt to rebuild its tunnel network to infiltrate Israel and restock its own missile and rocket stockpiles;

Whereas Israel also faces immediate threats to its security from the ongoing regional instability in the Middle East, especially from the ongoing conflict in Syria and from militant groups in the Sinai;

Whereas Iran remains a threat to Israel, as demonstrated by Iran's continued belligerence, including several illegal tests of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, even reportedly marking several of these weapons with Hebrew words declaring "Israel must be wiped out";

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 authorized funds to be appropriated for Israeli cooperative missile defense program codevelopment and coproduction, including funds to be provided to the Government of Israel to procure the David's Sling weapon system as well as the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program; and

Whereas, on December 19, 2014, the President signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296) which stated the sense of Congress that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States and declared it to be the policy of the United States "to continue to provide Israel with robust security assistance, including for the procurement of the Iron Dome Missile Defense System": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms that Israel is a major strategic partner of the United States;

(2) reaffirms that it is the policy and law of the United States to ensure that Israel maintains its qualitative military edge and has the capacity and capability to defend itself from all threats;

(3) reaffirms United States support of a robust Israeli tiered missile defense program;