

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1310

February 15, 2017

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to inquire about your commitment to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge (QME). A recent press report indicated that your Administration was considering new arms sales to Gulf countries. Such sales, if not considered in a broader regional context, could potentially undermine America's well-established commitment to Israel's QME.

Israel remains outnumbered militarily by adversaries. As a result, the United States has worked diligently with Israel to ensure that Israel maintains a qualitative military edge over her neighbors. Congress has played an active role in ensuring Israel's QME by requiring notification of arms sales to Middle Eastern nations and determinations regarding the impact on Israel's QME. Most recently in 2014 Congress passed the *U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act* (P.L. 113-296), which required more frequent assessments of the state of Israel's QME and additional reporting regarding arms sales and the impact to the military balance in the region.

With an increasingly assertive Iran, emerging terrorist threats in Gaza, and an emboldened Hezbollah, Israel's security threats continue to grow. Every president since Lyndon Johnson has reiterated America's commitment to maintaining Israel's QME. I strongly urge you to do the same and express your commitment to Israel's qualitative military edge in order to ensure that Israel can continue to effectively deter and counter such mounting threats.

Sincerely,



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress