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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHNEIDER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Israel Relations Nor-
5 malization Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Support for peace between Israel and its
2 neighbors has longstanding bipartisan support in
3 Congress.

4 (2) For decades, the United States Congress
5 has promoted Israel's acceptance among Arab states
6 and other relevant countries and regions and has en-
7 acted numerous laws opposing efforts to boycott, iso-
8 late, and stigmatize America's ally, Israel.

9 (3) The recent peace and normalization agree-
10 ments between Israel and several Arab states—the
11 United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Mo-
12 rocco—have the potential to fundamentally trans-
13 form the security, diplomatic, and economic environ-
14 ment in the Middle East and North Africa and ad-
15 vance vital United States national security interests.

16 (4) These agreements build upon the decades-
17 long leadership of the United States Government
18 and other governments in helping Israel broker
19 peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and promoting
20 peace talks between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, and
21 the Palestinians.

22 (5) These agreements also build on decades
23 long private diplomatic and security engagement be-
24 tween Israel and countries in the region.

1 (6) These normalization and peace agreements
2 could begin to transform the region by spurring eco-
3 nomic growth, enhancing technological innovation,
4 advancing understanding, and forging closer people-
5 to-people relations.

6 (7) These agreements have the potential to pro-
7 mote investment, tourism, and direct flights, and
8 promote cooperation on security, telecommuni-
9 cations, technology, energy, healthcare, culture, the
10 environment, water security and sustainable develop-
11 ment.

12 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

13 It is the policy of the United States—

14 (1) to expand and strengthen the Abraham Ac-
15 cords to encourage other nations to normalize rela-
16 tions with Israel and ensure that existing agree-
17 ments reap tangible security and economic benefits
18 for the citizens of those countries;

19 (2) to develop and implement a regional strat-
20 egy to encourage economic cooperation among Israel,
21 Arab states, and the Palestinians to enhance the
22 prospects for regional peace, respect for human
23 rights, transparent governance, and cooperation to
24 address water scarcity, climate solutions, health

1 care, sustainable development, and other areas that
2 result in benefits for residents of those countries;

3 (3) to develop and implement a regional secu-
4 rity strategy that recognizes the shared threat posed
5 by Iran and violent extremist organizations, ensures
6 sufficient United States deterrence in the region,
7 builds partner capacity to address shared threats,
8 and explores multilateral security arrangements built
9 around like-minded partners;

10 (4) to support and encourage government-to-
11 government and grassroots initiatives aimed at nor-
12 malizing ties with the state of Israel and promoting
13 people-to-people contact between Israelis, Arabs, and
14 peoples from other countries and regions, including
15 by expanding and enhancing the Abraham Accords;

16 (5) to continue to support a negotiated solution
17 to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two
18 states—a democratic Jewish state of Israel and a
19 viable democratic Palestinian state—living side by
20 side in peace, security, and mutual recognition;

21 (6) to implement the Nita M. Lowey Middle
22 East Partnership for Peace Act of 2020 (title VIII
23 of division K of Public Law 116–260), which sup-
24 ports economic cooperation and peacebuilding efforts
25 among Israelis and Palestinians;

1 (7) to oppose efforts to delegitimize the state of
2 Israel and legal barriers to normalization of relations
3 with Israel;

4 (8) to work to combat anti-Semitism and sup-
5 port normalization of relations with Israel, including
6 by countering anti-Semitic narratives on social
7 media and state media and pressing for educational
8 curriculum reform; and

9 (9) to encourage partnerships and collaboration
10 on climate solutions, water, health, sustainable de-
11 velopment, and other areas.

12 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO STRENGTHEN AND**
13 **EXPAND ABRAHAM ACCORDS AND OTHER**
14 **NORMALIZATION AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
17 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Adminis-
18 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
19 velopment, the Secretary of Defense, and the heads of
20 other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall
21 develop and submit to the appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees a strategy on expanding and strengthening the
23 Abraham Accords.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under sub-
2 section (a) shall also include each of the following ele-
3 ments:

4 (1) An assessment of future staffing and
5 resourcing requirements of entities within the De-
6 partment of State, the United States Agency for
7 International Development, the Department of De-
8 fense, and other appropriate Federal departments
9 and agencies with responsibility to coordinate United
10 States efforts to expand and strengthen the Abra-
11 ham Accords.

12 (2) An assessment of the bilateral and multilat-
13 eral cooperation between Israel, Arab states, and
14 other relevant countries and regions that have nor-
15 malized relations with Israel, including an assess-
16 ment of cooperation in the economic, social, cultural,
17 scientific, technical, educational, and health fields
18 and an assessment of roadblocks to increased co-
19 operation.

20 (3) An assessment of bilateral and multilateral
21 security cooperation between Israel, the United
22 States, Arab states, and other relevant countries and
23 regions that have normalized relations with Israel,
24 including potential roadblocks to increased security

1 cooperation, interoperability, and information shar-
2 ing.

3 (4) An assessment of the likelihood of addi-
4 tional Arab states and other relevant countries and
5 regions to normalize relations with Israel.

6 (5) An assessment of opportunities created by
7 normalization agreements with Israel to advance
8 prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestin-
9 ians.

10 (6) A detailed description of how the United
11 States Government will leverage diplomatic lines of
12 effort and resources from other stakeholders (includ-
13 ing from foreign governments, international donors,
14 and multilateral institutions) to encourage normal-
15 ization, economic development, and people-to-people
16 programming.

17 (c) FORM.—

18 (1) UNCLASSIFIED MATTER.—Subject to para-
19 graph (2), the report required by subsection (a) and
20 each of the elements described in paragraphs (1)
21 through (5) of subsection (b) shall be submitted in
22 unclassified form.

23 (2) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The report required
24 by subsection (a) shall also include a classified
25 annex, transmitted separately, that contains only the

1 matter included in the report pursuant to paragraph
2 (6) of subsection (b).

3 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
4 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
5 gressional committees” means—

6 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
7 Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee
8 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;
9 and

10 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
11 Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee
12 on Appropriations of the Senate.

13 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO PRO-**
14 **MOTE NORMALIZATION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
17 in coordination with the Administrator of the United
18 States Agency for International Development and the
19 heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies,
20 shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional
21 committees regarding options for United States inter-
22 national efforts to promote strengthening of ties between
23 Israel, Arab states, and other relevant countries and re-
24 gions.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-
2 section (a) shall also include each of the following ele-
3 ments:

4 (1) A description of options for leveraging con-
5 tributions of international donors, institutions, and
6 partner countries to facilitate people-to-people and
7 government-to-government relations between Israelis
8 and Arabs.

9 (2) Identification of existing relevant invest-
10 ment funds that support Israel-Arab state coopera-
11 tion and recommendations for how such funds could
12 be used to support normalization and increase pros-
13 perity for all relevant stakeholders.

14 (3) An assessment for creating an Abrahamic
15 Center for Pluralism to prepare educational mate-
16 rials, convene international seminars, promote toler-
17 ance and pluralism, and bring together scholars as
18 a means of advancing religious tolerance and coun-
19 tering political and religious extremism.

20 (4) An assessment of the benefit to Israel and
21 its neighbors of participating in a regional con-
22 ference on climate solutions, water, health, and sus-
23 tainable development.

24 (5) An assessment of the feasibility and benefit
25 of increasing the capacity of existing Department of

1 State and United States Agency for International
2 Development-funded programs for developing people-
3 to-people exchange programs for young people be-
4 tween Israel, Arab states, and other relevant coun-
5 tries and regions.

6 (6) Recommendations to improve Department
7 of State cooperation and coordination, particularly
8 between the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat
9 Anti-Semitism, the Ambassador at Large for Inter-
10 national Religious Freedom, and the Director of the
11 Office of International Religious Freedom, to combat
12 the racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Sem-
13 itism that hinder improvement of relations between
14 Israel, Arab states, and other relevant countries and
15 regions.

16 (7) A proposal for the manner in which the
17 United States Government and others can use exist-
18 ing Federal resources to counter Holocaust denial
19 and anti-Semitism abroad.

20 (8) An assessment of the value and feasibility
21 of Federal support for inter-parliamentary exchange
22 programs among Members of Congress, of the
23 Knesset, and parliamentarians from Arab states and
24 other relevant countries and regions, including

1 through existing Federal programs that support
2 such exchanges.

3 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—

4 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” means—

6 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
7 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives; and

9 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
10 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

11 **SEC. 6. BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO NORMALIZATION**
12 **WITH ISRAEL.**

13 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the
14 “Strengthening Reporting of Actions Taken Against the
15 Normalization of Relations with Israel Act of 2021”.

16 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
17 ings:

18 (1) The Arab League, an organization com-
19 prising 22 Middle Eastern and African countries
20 and entities, has maintained an official boycott of
21 Israeli companies and Israeli-made goods since the
22 founding of Israel in 1948.

23 (2) Longstanding United States policy has en-
24 couraged Arab League states to normalize their rela-
25 tions with Israel and has long prioritized funding co-

1 operative programs that promote normalization be-
2 tween Arab League States and Israel, including the
3 Middle East Regional Cooperation program, which
4 promotes Arab-Israeli scientific cooperation.

5 (3) While some Arab League governments are
6 signaling enhanced cooperation with the state of
7 Israel on the government-to-government level, most
8 continue to persecute their own citizens who estab-
9 lish people-to-people relations with Israelis in non-
10 governmental fora, through a combination of judicial
11 and extrajudicial retribution.

12 (4) Some Arab League states maintain draco-
13 nian anti-normalization laws that punish their citi-
14 zens for people-to-people relations with Israelis, with
15 punishments, including imprisonment, revocation of
16 citizenship, and execution. Extrajudicial punish-
17 ments by these and other Arab states include sum-
18 mary imprisonment, accusations of “treason” in gov-
19 ernment-controlled media, and professional black-
20 listing.

21 (5) Anti-normalization laws, together with the
22 other forms of retribution, effectively condemn these
23 societies to mutual estrangement and, by extension,
24 reduce the possibility of conciliation and com-
25 promise.

1 (6) Former Israeli President Shimon Peres said
2 in 2008 at the United Nations that Israel agrees
3 with the Arab Peace Initiative that a military solu-
4 tion to the conflict “will not achieve peace or provide
5 security for the parties”.

6 (7) Despite the risk of retaliatory action, a ris-
7 ing tide of Arab civic actors advocate direct engage-
8 ment with Israeli citizens and residents. These in-
9 clude the Arab Council for Regional Integration, a
10 group of 32 public figures from 15 Arab countries
11 who oppose the boycott of Israel on the grounds that
12 the boycott has denied Arabs the benefits of partner-
13 ship with Israelis, has blocked Arabs from helping to
14 bridge the Israeli-Palestinian divide, and inspired di-
15 visive intra-Arab boycotts among diverse sects and
16 ethnic groups.

17 (8) On February 11, 2020, a delegation of the
18 Arab Council to the French National Assembly in
19 Paris testified to the harmful effects of “anti-nor-
20 malization laws”, called on the Assembly to enact a
21 law instructing the relevant French authorities to
22 issue an annual report on instances of Arab govern-
23 ment retribution for any of their citizens or resi-
24 dents who call for peace with Israel or engage in di-
25 rect civil relations with Israeli citizens, and re-

1 requested democratic legislatures to help defend the
2 region’s civil peacemakers.

3 (9) On May 11, 2020, 85 leaders in France
4 published an endorsement of the Arab Council’s pro-
5 posal, calling on France and other democratic gov-
6 ernments to “protect Arabs who engage in dialogue
7 with Israeli citizens” and proposing “the creation of
8 a study group in the National Assembly as well as
9 in the Senate whose mission would be to ensure a
10 legal and technical monitoring of the obstacles which
11 Arab proponents of dialogue with Israelis face”.

12 (10) Arab-Israeli cooperation provides signifi-
13 cant symbiotic benefit to the security and economic
14 prosperity of the region.

15 (c) ANNUAL REPORTING.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
18 thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the
19 appropriate congressional committees a report on
20 the status of the normalization of relations between
21 Israel, Arab states, and other relevant countries and
22 regions.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
24 paragraph (1) shall include the following informa-
25 tion:

1 (A) The status of “anti-normalization
2 laws” in each country within the jurisdiction of
3 the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, including
4 efforts within each country to sharpen existing
5 laws, enact new or additional “anti-normaliza-
6 tion legislation”, or repeal such laws.

7 (B) Instances of prosecution of citizens or
8 residents of Arab countries for calling for peace
9 with Israel, visiting the state of Israel, or en-
10 gaging Israeli citizens in any way.

11 (C) Instances of extrajudicial retribution
12 by Arab governments or government-controlled
13 institutions against citizens or residents of Arab
14 countries for any of the actions described in
15 subparagraph (B).

16 (D) Evidence of steps taken by Arab gov-
17 ernments toward permitting or encouraging
18 people-to-people relations between their citizens
19 or residents and Israeli citizens.

20 (E) Instances where Arab governments
21 used state-owned or state-operated media out-
22 lets to promote anti-Semitic propaganda.

23 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
24 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
2 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives; and

4 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
5 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

6 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

7 This Act shall cease to be effective on the date that
8 is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.