To reaffirm the critical role of congressional consultation and to require appropriate deliberation to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of 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 reaffirm the critical role of congressional consultation and to require appropriate deliberation to assess the effects of the sale or export of major defense equipment to countries in the Middle East on the qualitative military edge of 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
4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “Guaranteeing Israel’s
SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The recent signing of the Abraham Accords and establishment of full diplomatic relations between United Arab Emirates and Bahrain with Israel represents a historic step towards pursuing peace and security for all peoples in the Middle East region.

(2) Israel remains the most important and most reliable strategic ally of the United States in the Middle East.

(3) The enactment of the United States–Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–296) established Israel as a major strategic partner of the United States.

(4) Certain countries and non-state actors in the Middle East region have been at war, both declared and undeclared, with Israel since its founding in 1948.

(5) For more than 50 years, the United States has worked to ensure Israel’s qualitative military edge when considering the sale or export of defense articles and defense services to Israel or to others in the Middle East region.

(6) Maintaining a substantial qualitative military edge is critical to preserving Israel’s safety and
security, and has been a vital consideration in all
previous sales of weapons to the region.

(7) Since 2008, the United States commitment
to Israel’s qualitative military edge has been estab-
lished and reaffirmed several times in law.

(8) In 2016, the United States and Israel
signed a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, in
which the United States committed that “the acqui-
sition of additional U.S.-produced capabilities and
technology provide the best means to ensure Israel
preserves its Qualitative Military Edge (QME)”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the President, con-
sistent with long established United States law and in sup-
port of one of the most important United States allies,
must ensure that any sale or export of defense articles
or defense services to countries in the Middle East region
does not in any way adversely affect Israel’s qualitative
military edge.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION RE-
GARDING ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE MILITARY
EDGE.

Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22
U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing:
“(4) Consultation required.—The President shall seek to consult with appropriate officials of the Government of Israel for information regarding Israel’s qualitative military edge before making a determination under paragraph (1).

“(5) Initial determination with respect to letters of request.—Not later than 60 days after the date of a letter of request for defense articles or defense services subject to this section, the President shall submit to Congress an unclassified determination with respect to the impact fulfilling such request would have on Israel’s qualitative military edge, and offer to provide supplemental classified briefing on such determination.”.