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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the President 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 require the President 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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Defending Israel’s
5 QME Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Israel is the strongest and most reliable
2 strategic ally of the United States in the Middle
3 East.

4 (2) Certain countries and non-state actors in
5 the Middle East region have been at war, both de-
6 clared and undeclared, with Israel since 1948.

7 (3) Since the time of the Reagan Administra-
8 tion, the United States has worked to preserve
9 Israel's qualitative military edge when considering
10 the sale or export of defense articles or defense serv-
11 ices to Israel or to others in the Middle East region.

12 (4) Ensuring a substantial qualitative military
13 edge is critical to preserving Israel's safety and secu-
14 rity.

15 (5) The United States Government has pro-
16 posed to sell or export significant defense articles
17 and defense services to countries in the Middle East
18 region.

19 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that the President should
21 ensure that any sale or export of defense articles or de-
22 fense services to countries in the Middle East region does
23 not in any way adversely affect Israel's qualitative military
24 edge.

1 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATION RE-**
2 **GARDING ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY**
3 **EDGE.**

4 Section 36(h) of the Arms Export Control Act (22
5 U.S.C. 2776(h)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking
8 “and” at the end;

9 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
10 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(E) an assessment of—

13 “(i) the ability of Israel to effectively
14 defend itself against military threats from
15 regional non-state actors;

16 “(ii) the risk that is posed by the sale
17 or export of a subsequent unauthorized
18 transfer or proliferation of the equipment
19 for use against Israel; and

20 “(iii) the effective countermeasures
21 available to Israel to defend against such
22 unauthorized transfer or proliferation.”;

23 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
24 graph (4); and

25 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2), as amend-
26 ed by paragraph (1) of this section, the following:

1 “(3) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Presi-
2 dent shall seek to consult with appropriate officials
3 of the Government of Israel for information regard-
4 ing Israel’s qualitative military edge before making
5 a determination under paragraph (1).”.