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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:
(1) Israel is the strongest and most reliable strategic ally of the United States in the Middle East.

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

(3) Since the time of the Reagan Administration, the United States has worked to preserve Israel’s qualitative military edge when considering the sale or export of defense articles or defense services to Israel or to others in the Middle East region.

(4) Ensuring a substantial qualitative military edge is critical to preserving Israel’s safety and security.

(5) The United States Government has proposed to sell or export significant defense articles and defense services to countries in the Middle East region.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should 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 REGARDING ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE.

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

(1) in paragraph (2)—

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

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) an assessment of—

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

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

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

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2), as amended by paragraph (1) of this section, the following:
“(3) 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).”