



H.CON.RES. 322 – Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 322 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) on April 4, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 322 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 22, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 322 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the historic significance of the 60th anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people;
- Reaffirms its enduring support for Israel as Israel pursues peace with its neighbors;
- Reaffirms its support for Israel's right to defend itself against threats to its security and existence;
- Commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic, democratic society in the face of terrorism, as well as hostility, ostracism, and belligerence from many of their neighbors;
- Reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past 60 years, and commits to strengthening those bonds; and
- Extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

BACKGROUND

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine and create a Jewish state. On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the independent State of Israel, which is a parliamentary democracy. The United States has maintained full diplomatic relations with Israel since its founding.

For sixty years, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect. Israel is a key U.S. security ally in the Middle East. The U.S. is also Israel's largest trading partner, with more than \$26 billion two-way trade. Israel has developed some of the leading universities in the world, and 8 Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize.



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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President Bush visited Israel in January 2008 to meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. From March 28-31, 2008, Secretary Rice also met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to support their ongoing bilateral dialogue and the serious effort underway to achieve agreement this year on the establishment of a Palestinian state, living side by side with Israel in peace and security.

STAFF CONTACT

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