

Zionist Organization of America

Legislative Initiatives for the 118th Congress of the United States

No matter which state you live in, you can participate in encouraging your lawmakers to co-sponsor legislation that will help America, secure Israel, bolster the mutually beneficial U.S.-Israel relationship and level the geo-political “playing field.”

You can accomplish this by contacting both of your senators as well as your House member — and by strongly encouraging everyone you know to do likewise whether by phone, email or website contact form. Likely you know at least 10 people — friends, family, neighbors, business associates. Plus even more via your email lists and social media contacts. Each of these also knows at least 10 people.

On May 16, ZOA members fanned out across Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers and their staffs in-person to discuss the Senate bills and House resolutions below dealing with Iran, the Palestinian-Arabs and the United Nations. In our meetings, we made a strong case for each legislative initiative. Now, we would like you and those who you know — from the comfort of your home or office — to help ZOA make the case for each item.

It is also important to “thank” any of your lawmakers who are already a co-sponsor of one of these bills or resolutions.

Yes, you can be a “force multiplier” in this important effort!

See each legislative item and talking points for each below. There is also an illustrated guide how to use the helpful website congress.gov to make the process easy.

Legislation:

In the House:

Iran:

- Co-sponsor H. R. 589 MAHSA Act- Sanctions on leadership of Iran
- Co-sponsor H. R. 869 REGIME Act of 2023 - Block Iranian terrorist from entering U.S.
- Co-sponsor H.R. 691 Sanctioning Iranian-Backed Militia Terrorists Act — adding Iran-backed terrorists to sanctions list.

Aid to the Palestinian Authority:

- Co-sponsor H. R. 1408 Taylor Force Martyr Payment Prevention Act of 2023 -This law is a follow up to the original Taylor Force Act which prevents direct aid to the PA. This law will prevent banks from making payments to the PA.
- Co-sponsor H.R. 1102 (Rep. Roy) UNRWA Accountability and Transparency Act- Redefines refugee status to prevent inherited refugee status and ends abuse of US funds to UNRWA.

Ask the lawmakers to oppose the establishment of a U.S. consulate in Jerusalem for Palestinian-Arabs, and the re-opening of a PLO “embassy” in Washington.

UN Commission Of Inquiry:

- Co-sponsor H.R. 7223 COI Elimination Act— Cuts U.N. funding if U.N. does not end COI.

Senate:

Iran:

- Co-sponsor S. 256 To terminate certain waivers of sanctions with respect to Iran issued in connection with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- Co-sponsor S.1390 - A bipartisan bill to repeal the sunset provision of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.
- Co-sponsor S. 472 Iran Nuclear Treaty Act- any new agreement with Iran would need to be ratified by the Senate as a treaty.

Palestinian Authority:

- S. 691 Taylor Force Martyr Payment Prevention Act of 2023 —This bill is a follow up to the original Taylor Force Act, which prevents direct aid to the P.A. This law would prevent banks from making payments to the P.A.
- S. 431 UNRWA Accountability and Transparency Act— Redefines refugee status of Palestinian-Arabs to prevent inherited refugee status, and ends abuse of U.S. funds to UNRWA.

Ask the lawmakers to oppose the establishment of a U.S. consulate in Jerusalem for Palestinian-Arabs, and the re-opening of a PLO “embassy” in Washington.

U.N. Commission Of Inquiry:

- Co-sponsor S.4389 COI Elimination Act — Cuts U.N. funding if U.N. does not end COI.

TALKING POINTS FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE (Prepared by Dan Pollak):

IRAN- May 2023

The ZOA is firmly opposed to allowing Iran to acquire a military nuclear capability, and strongly supports any steps to prevent that outcome.

Through its illicit nuclear program and support for international terrorism, Iran poses a significant threat to U.S. national security interests, and also poses an existential threat to Israel.

Iran is on the brink of achieving a nuclear capability RIGHT NOW. Iran has enriched Uranium to 84%, although they promised to keep it below 20%.

According to Israeli sources, Iran has enough highly enriched uranium to make 5 weapons within weeks.

The ZOA asks all lawmakers to support Israel's right to take robust kinetic action in self-defense to end this program by any means.

The ZOA opposes return in any form to the disastrous JCPOA.

The JCPOA was itself a pathway to a nuclear military capability, even without the cheating we know Iran has been engaged in.

Sunset provisions mean that there is no hope for 'safety' from the JCPOA

Weapons importing has already been allowed since October of 2020

Ballistic Missile restrictions, which Iran has violated anyway, expire in October of 2023

All restrictions expire starting in 2025

Claim that Iran has not cheated is false-

A covert Israeli raid on nuclear warehouse in 2018 proved that Iran had been engaged in nuclear weapons research continuously since 2003. Nuclear residue found to be present in the warehouse shows that unannounced enrichment was taking place at secret, undeclared sites. Both were violations of the JCPOA requirement to announce all nuclear work

Iran currently has more enriched uranium than it is permitted under the JCPOA, and has made some of it into metallic uranium for use in warhead fabrication

The US and Europe have not reacted at all to current violations of the deal.

Iran's ballistic missile program is a threat to both Israel and the USA

Iran's ballistic missiles are only useful for delivering nuclear or chemical payloads, and Israeli, European, and U.S. military bases and the U.S. mainland are within range of the missiles Iran is developing.

President Biden has already made numerous concessions to Iran, and the administration has proposed a return to the flawed JCPOA

Iran is a threat to the entire world

Iran has used the money it received from sanctions release to upgrade their military and engage in destabilizing actions in the region.

The Abraham Accords are possible due to the common threat the Gulf countries all feel from Iran.

U.S. Congress has a role to insist on a constitutional treaty approval of any new agreement. Any agreement reached that is not ratified by the Senate will not be supported by the American people beyond the term of the current president.

Iran is closely cooperating with North Korea on ballistic missiles and nuclear research.

Iran continues to be a radical Islamic theocracy that seeks to export its revolutionary ideology abroad by supporting terrorist proxy groups, including the Houthi in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, which carry out attacks on civilians and threaten American interests and assets.

The U.S. State Department continues to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran as the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism.

Stop US AID to the Palestinian Authority May 2023

The ZOA is opposed to aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and strongly condemns the disingenuous indirect pathways that are currently being used to circumvent restrictions. P.A. payments to terrorists total about \$300 million per year. The payments to the families of 'martyrs' are actually increased for more heinous crimes.

Existing U.S. law also prohibits reimbursements for these payments, and the Biden administration's attempts to get around the law are both counterproductive for U.S. interests and unlawful. Furthermore, the law does not allow either the opening of a consulate in Jerusalem when our embassy is already there, nor a PLO embassy in D.C. as long as the P.A. is pursuing a sham case against Israel in the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ZOA asks all lawmakers to oppose the "Pay to Slay" policy of the P.A.

U.S. aid to the Palestinian Arabs has totaled more than \$ 900 million in the last two years.

The PA continues to obstruct the peace process, opposes the Abraham Accords, and encourages terrorism

daily.

In March 2016, a member of the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas murdered U.S. Army veteran Taylor Force in Tel Aviv. Soon thereafter, the terrorist's family started receiving "martyr payments" from the Palestinian Authority.

"Pay to Slay" payments to terrorists can be as high as five times the salary of a teacher, with the highest payments going to the perpetrators of the most heinous crimes.

In 2018, Congress passed the bipartisan Taylor Force Act, (Title X of P. L. 115-141) which significantly restricts non-humanitarian U.S. aid to the P.A. until it ends its "Pay to Slay" program.

If the aid to the PLO were legal there would also be significant questions about in whose pockets the funds would end up. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that for fiscal year 2015-2019, USAID "did not consistently ensure" that grants would not be passed along to terrorist groups and individual terrorists. Corruption is so endemic that officials regard the diversion of funds to relatives of leaders of the P.A. to be a cost of doing business.

Under existing law, no U.S. aid is permitted as long as the P.A. is not actively participating in taking steps towards peace, payments to terrorists are ended, and the P.A. has no cases in the ICC against Israel.

-The State Department says that all U.S. aid payments are "consistent with U.S. law." Unfortunately, that is simply not the case.

UNRWA is making the conflict in the Middle East worse

UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) has received \$ 618 million since President Biden resumed funding to the least efficient refugee agency at the UN

UNRWA counts descendants born 75 years after the conflict as refugees, and leaves Palestinian Arabs in refugee camps to be political pawns without any attempt to resettle them

All other refugees in the world are serviced by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and in each conflict zone, refugee status is ended after a reasonable time

ZOA opposes consulate in Jerusalem and PLO Embassy in Washington D. C.

President Trump established the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem and closed the consulate which was used as a de-facto embassy to the Palestinian Arabs.

President Biden has already established a separate diplomatic post: 'Special Envoy to the Palestinians,' which does not report to the Embassy in Jerusalem.

In no country in the world is there a consulate in the same city as the US embassy.

Consulates can only be established with the permission of the host country in accordance with binding international treaties.

U.S. law explicitly states that the PLO cannot have a diplomatic presence in the US unless the P.A. is not paying terrorists, is working towards peace, and is not abusing the International Criminal Court (ICC) to bring sham cases against Israel.

UN Committee of Inquiry (COI) Elimination Act May 2023

ZOA supports the elimination of funding for the UN Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) discriminatory and unwarranted permanent Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the Israeli Palestinian conflict. Following the conflict begun by missile attacks on Israel by the Islamic terrorist group Hamas in 2021, this biased UN body escalated its hatred of Israel to enshrine a kangaroo court on Israeli 'war crimes.' If the UN is to have any value at all, this COI must be ended.

UNHRC is biased against Israel

At every meeting of the UNHRC, there is a permanent 'Agenda Item 7,' forcing discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict without regard to what else is happening in the world.

For example, during the height of the Syrian civil war, the UNHRC passed a resolution decrying Israeli human

rights abuses in the Golan Heights, while staying silent on Syria's murder of its own people.

Some of the worst regimes in the world have seats on the UNHRC, including China, Algeria, Cuba and Russia.

The council appointed a special rapporteur on the Israeli–Palestinian conflict as its only official with no year of expiration. This position has always been filled with a rabidly anti-Israel person.

The U.S. State Department called the report of the COI 'a one-sided, biased approach that does nothing to advance the prospects for peace'.

US payments to UNHRC enable anti-Israel bias

The US contributes more than 13 billion dollars to the UN annually, and is the single largest contributor.

The COI on Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza costs about \$ 5 million per year.

Legislation would cut 25 % of the amount the UNHRC spent on the COI each year from the US allocation to the UN. For this year, this would be about \$ 1.25 million. The cut would only be a symbolic token, but the principle of UN accountability would be established.

Finding out who your senators are and who your House member is (and to do so for your friends and contacts to be a “force multiplier), reading the text of each bill or resolution, finding out if your senators or House member is already a co-sponsor of the bills or resolutions above (in which case you should “thank” the lawmakers)..:

Make use of the helpful and easy-to-navigate website congress.gov

Congress.gov is a wonderful resource/tool to look up or research almost anything pertaining to the United States Congress — from information about and contact information for lawmakers, to legislation present and past, to see who the co-sponsors are, and to check the status of legislation.

The screenshot shows the congress.gov website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'CONGRESS.GOV' and 'Advanced Searches | Browse'. Below this is a search bar with a dropdown menu for 'Current Congress' and a search input field containing 'Examples: hr5, sres9, "health care"'. A red arrow points to the search input field with the text 'Look up by bill number or resolution number such as S1 or HR 123'. Below the search bar, there are sections for 'Most-Viewed Bills | Top 10', 'Bill Searches and Lists', and 'Current Legislative Activities'. A red arrow points to the 'Contact Your Member' section with the text 'Look up your House member and senators'. The 'Contact Your Member' section includes a search box for 'Find your member by address:' and a search icon.

See more on next page:

H.R.589 - MAHSA Act

118th Congress (2023-2024) | [Get alerts](#)

BILL Hide Overview ✕

Sponsor: [Rep. Banks, Jim \[R-IN-3\]](#) (Introduced 01/27/2023)

Committees: House - Foreign Affairs; Judiciary; Financial Services; Ways and Means

Committee Meetings: [04/26/23 10:30AM](#)

Latest Action: House - 04/26/2023 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote. ([All Actions](#))

Tracker:  **Introduced** > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law

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Read the text of the legislation (click)

Summary (1) | Text (1) | Actions (7) | Titles (3) | Amendments (0) | Cosponsors (113) | Committees (4) | Related Bills (0)

Summary: H.R.589 — 118th Congress (2023-2024)

See who already has opted to be a co-sponsor (click)

[All](#)

  Listen 

There is one summary for H.R.589. [Bill summaries](#) are authored by CRS.

If you have any questions about legislation, who your lawmakers are, need help understanding the issues or any related matters, please call Greater Philadelphia ZOA at 610-660-9466.