

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Republicans vs Democrats

## A Comparative Look at Congress Foreign Policy in the MENA Region

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### Abstract

This paper compares US foreign policies of Republican and Democratic members of Congress in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through 126 laws from 1973 to 2017 and in the light of the concepts of 'soft,' 'hard', and 'smart' powers. The analyses of the laws led to the following findings. Initially, regardless of their party affiliations, all members of Congress agreed on protecting and strengthening Israel through using means of soft and hard powers. Additionally, Republicans are more likely to use means of hard power than Democrats, especially military force. Democrats rely, in fact, more on diplomatic and strategic cooperation. They are also more likely to apply the concept of 'smart power', well balancing hard and soft power means. By contrast, Republicans' resort to hard power is widely unbalanced with that of soft power. Furthermore, they tend to be keener on looking for economic opportunities in the region than Democrats do. Finally, the paper finds out that Democrats are more open and lenient than Republicans in terms of their immigration policies toward the MENA region's citizens. These findings are generally in line with the available literature. However, the paper's originality lies in the methodology used to attain them.

**Keywords:** USA; foreign policy; Congress; MENA region

### Introduction

The Founding Fathers of the US, who were also the drafters of the US Constitution, did not envisage a role for political parties nor did they aim at establishing a partisan political system in the country. This explains the fact that there is no mention of political parties and their role in the Constitution of the United States of America. George Washington, the first president of the US, was not affiliated with any political party. In fact, in his Farewell Address, George Washington (1796) warned against the establishment of political parties stating: "I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party". Similarly, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison (1787) clearly expressed their concern about the menaces of national domestic factions in the Federalist Papers No. 9 and No.10, respectively. However, the very same leaders, Hamilton and Madison, were behind the development of one of the first party systems in the world in order to shift the executive power from one bloc to another through elections. These include the Federalist faction led by Hamilton and the Democratic-Republican faction with Madison and Thomas Jefferson at the head (Hofstadter, 1970). This nascent party system was further developed thanks to the expansion of voting rights which were restricted to male property

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129

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owners before it was broadened in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century to include all races and sexes. The expansion of the electorate allowed political parties to mobilize an increasing number of voters to attain political control (Dangerfield, 1989).

Nowadays, the Republican and Democratic parties control the executive and legislative powers in the US. For instance, there has never been a president-elect from outside of the two parties since 1852 and the two parties' part of the popular vote for the president has always been close to 95 percent since the Second World War. Similarly, the number of state and federal legislatures who are not affiliated with either party has always been very low (Ornstein et al., 2014).

Although the functions of US political parties are not mentioned in the constitution, they do perform major roles in the American political system. The Merriam's (1923) classification can be considered a typical representative of the literature on the functions of political parties in the US. According to Merriam (1923), there are five key functions of political parties in the American political system. First, political parties select candidates for political office both for the executive and legislative branches of the government. In so doing, the voters' task becomes easier because political parties narrow the voters' choice. Second, political parties formulate public policies through their elected representatives who should establish policies that reflect the party's principles and convictions. Third, a political party monitors the opposing party in office through controlling its policies and informing the public of any misconduct or slipup. Furthermore, political parties play an important role in the political education of Americans, which include informing and mobilizing voters as well as nationalizing the public opinion. Last but not least, political parties serve as mediators between citizens and the government because it is through political parties that Americans can hold both the President and Congress accountable. This accountability is achieved through voting in the elections because voters may vote for candidates to support a particular party or penalize another one (American Political Science Association, 1950; Bums, 1963; Schattschneider, 1942; Sundquist, 1992).

These functions show that the importance of political parties in the US lies in the fact that they nominate candidates who establish domestic and foreign policies once they are elected as presidents or members of Congress.

The US Constitution divides the powers of initiating and changing foreign policies among the President and Congress. The two branches share the decision making powers pertaining to designing US foreign policies. Yet, they both have different roles to play through which they create foreign policies or respond to each other's foreign policy decisions. Article 1 of the Constitution mentions many foreign policy powers of Congress such as to "regulate commerce with foreign nations," "declare war," "raise and support armies," "provide and maintain a navy," and "make rules for the government and regulation of the land and knaval forces." (U.S. Constitution. Art. I.)

Another very important power of Congress is "the power of the purse" or the ability to tax and spend public money for the national government. This power is exclusively vested in Congress, especially the House of Representatives: "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of Appropriations made by Law." (U.S. Const. art. 1, sec.9, cl. 7). However, Carroll's timely study (1966) of the "power of the purse" showed that this role is not very important in initiating and shaping US foreign policy despite the fact that it is the House's major role. Westphal (1942) had come to the same conclusion in his comprehensive work on the House Committee on foreign affairs.

An attempt to relate Congress foreign policy functions to US foreign policy in the Middle East reveals few interesting remarks. First of all, it is well-known that a significant part of US foreign policy in the region involves foreign aid to several countries in the area, especially the regional US strategic allies (Barber, 2002; Berger, 2012; Carothers, 2009;

Corneille & Shiffman, 2004 ; Ingram, 2018; Tarnoff, 2015). This directly relates to the Power of the Purse function. Additionally, there is an increasing number of Free Trade Agreements which the US signed with many countries in the region (Hassanien, 2010). This relates to the Congress function of regulating international commerce. Furthermore, many of Congress foreign policy functions relate to declaring war and raising or maintaining military forces (Sobhy, 2005; Yoo, 2008; Hallett, 2012). In fact, the strategic interest of the US in the region necessitates maintaining US military presence there either through permanent military bases or via military interventions, which also requires the use of the power of the purse.

This paper examines and compares foreign policies of Republicans and Democrats in the Middle East and North Africa within the legislative branch of US government. The paper adopts Joseph Nye's concepts of 'soft', 'hard' and 'smart' powers as frameworks of analysis and comparison. I believe that this comparison is both important and relevant because of the strategic importance of the region to the US, Therefore, understanding the difference in policies between the two parties is useful to account for the periodic changes that might occur in US foreign policy towards the region in general or vis-a-vis particular countries that are part of the same region. Furthermore, the chosen timeframe for analysis (1973-2017) is also significant because it starts and ends with important and controversial events and during which other critical events took place. That is, the oil crisis of 1973 and the election of Donald Trump as well as most of US interventions in the region. While the findings of this paper might seem to be a conventional wisdom, the originality of the paper is found in the methodology I adopted as I shall explain.

The paper proceeds as follows. I will start with presenting Nye's conceptual understanding of power along with other relevant literature. Afterwards, I will describe the process of collecting data and methods of analysis before proceeding with the analysis and highlighting the major findings. The paper ends with some important conclusions.

### Nye's conceptual understandings of power

To begin with, it is important to point out that power is a highly debatable concept in political theory and it is not easy to define. I mainly relied on Nye's conceptual understanding of power because of two major factors: First, it is the most comprehensive as it differentiates between hard, soft and smart powers. Second, it has a clear relevance to US foreign policy in general with some significant references to the MENA area. Nye (2002) defines power as "the ability to effect the outcomes you want and, if necessary, to change the behavior of others to make this happen." (p.4). Barnett and Duvall (2005) define power as "the production, in and through social relations, of effects that shape the capacities of actors to determine their circumstances and fate." Nye, along with other contemporary scholars, argued that the classical academic understating of power has begun to change with the evolvement of IR as an academic discipline (Gray & U.S. Strategic Studies Institute Army War College, 2011; Nye, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015). Nye (1990) pointed out to the constant change in international order which necessitates using impalpable means of power including culture and ideology as well as institutions. Similarly, Baldwin (2013) minimizes the significance of military power and argued that nonmilitary means have been undervalued.

Political scientists and scholars of international relations have made use of various understandings of political power. For example, proponents of the realist school in IR, especially the classical among them, think of power as the states' inherent and ultimate aim (Morgenthau & Thompson, 2006). Economic and military growth as well as cultural hegemony are all means to achieve one end. That is, to be able to influence and dominate actors in addition to having control over resources. To illustrate, the strategic importance of the Middle East for the US prompts this latter to strive to influence and dominate the

region's actors through various means. These include but not limited to the threat of using or the actual use of force, establishing economic partnership or imposing economic sanctions, maintaining or stopping diplomatic relations as well as initiating cultural exchanges. For instance, the US has militarily intervened in Iraq claiming that the country possessed WMDs. It has also imposed economic sanctions on Iran to prevent it from acquiring nuclear arms and established several FTAs with some Arab states to realise more economic growth. Moreover, the US has launched many cultural and educational exchange programs to polish the image of the US among Arabs and spread the American culture. Finally, it goes without saying that the region's oil resources remain one of the major reasons behind the US keenness on influencing and dominating the area.

Joseph Nye differentiated between two types of power: 'Soft' and 'hard'. Hard power is considered the classical type of power and relates to the understanding of international system as anarchic. It is carried out through using or threatening to use military force and coercive diplomacy as well as applying or threatening to apply economic sanctions. Hard power is usually measured by military power, the size of population, the country's territory and geography, natural resources and strength of the economy. Realists and neorealists advocate for using this kind of power in order to maintain a balance in the international system.

On the other hand, 'soft' power refers to a nation's use of non-coercive, non-forceful and non-violent means such as cultural, educational and cooperative programs as well as financial aid to convince other nations to ascribe to its policies (Nye, 2008, 2009; Parmar & Cox, 2010). The origins of the concept of soft power are often traced to Carr's (1946) classification of power in three categories: Military, economic and the power over opinion. While military and economic powers are examples of hard power, the power over opinion can be considered an attribute of soft power. Unlike Carr's realist thought, which generally believe in the utility of hard power, the liberal school in international relations is more likely to prioritize the use of means of soft power. The liberalists consider war a major problem in international relations. Therefore, they prefer three solutions to solve it. Namely, democracy, economic interdependence and international institutions, which are all means of soft power (Gallarotti, 2010; Lawson, 2015; Viotti & Kauppi, 2012; Ohnesorge, 2019)

Unlike hard power, which is often measured by relatively straightforward and simple resources, the intangibility of soft power makes it hard to measure. Nye (2008) develops three resources through which soft power can be measured. First, the nation's culture and its attractiveness to other nations. In fact, the American culture has become increasingly attractive among Arab and Muslim youth (Richards & Omidvar, 2014). Second, the country's political values and whether it respects them at home and internationally. While the US is generally considered a democratic country at home, it is often criticized for not adopting similar practices internationally, especially in the MENA region. The long US support for Arab non-democratic regimes in the region is a case in point (McMillan, 2016). Third, the government's foreign policies and how legitimate and moral they are. It goes without saying that US foreign policy in the Middle East has often been controversial, especially with the support to Israel and engaging in some illegitimate wars such as the war in Iraq.

Jonathan McClory (2011) elaborated on Nye's categorisation and developed five categories of soft power: The government which epitomises the political values of a nation; culture or the specific practices that define a particular society. Diplomacy, Education as well as Business and innovation. I can also include other soft power resources such as tourism, sports achievements, arts and history. These spheres of soft power can be implemented by various agents and actors such as the government, NGOs, Multinational companies, civil society, networks or even individuals. Soft power can be instrumentalised through laws and



policies, bilateral, regional or international agreements, educational and cultural exchange programs, sports events and academic conferences, to name a few.

Taking into consideration that soft power cannot always be effective in dealing with all types of issues, it is very important to adopt a balanced approach to coping with foreign policy issues. An approach based on a skillful combination of hard and soft powers or what Nye and Armitage (2007) referred to as 'smart' power. In other words, smart power is an effective and efficient combination of soft and hard power to realize the actor's goals (Wilson, 2008: 115)

To illustrate, Nye (2012) uses the example of terrorism. He believes that the use of a combination of soft and hard power means is the most effective strategy to fight this phenomenon. He argues that utilizing resources of soft power only with a group like Taliban might not be useful to win their hearts and minds. Therefore, the use of a means of hard power is required. Nevertheless, to develop and strengthen relations with Arab and Muslim countries, the US use of hard power would have negative effects. Consequently, the use of soft power resources is necessary. Crocker et al. (2007) sum up the smart power strategy stating that smart power "involves the strategic use of diplomacy, persuasion, capacity building, and the projection of power and influence in ways that are cost-effective and have political and social legitimacy" (p. 13). To begin with, it is important to point out that power is a highly debatable concept in political theory and it is not easy to define. In fact, Nye's conceptualisation of power remains interesting due to its comprehensiveness as it deals with different aspects of power in addition to its relevance to US foreign policy with considerable references to the MENA region.

### US foreign policy: Republicans vs Democrats

Taking into consideration that the literature on the difference between US foreign policies of Republicans and Democrats in the MENA region is very scarce, this section briefly and broadly presents some of these differences based on a recent research conducted by the Lester Crown Center on US Foreign Policy in 2020 (Smeltz et al., 2020).

According to the research, Democrats are more likely to favor international coordination either through bilateral partnerships or global institutions. In contrast, Republicans believe less in international coordination and more in being self-sufficient. In other words, Democrats tend to be in favor of using means of soft power which is implemented through bilateral or multilateral cooperation. On the other hand, the fact that Republicans believe more in self-sufficiency and self-reliance may prompt them to take unilateral actions and forceful actions to attain this goal. As a result, they are likely to adopt and make use of means of soft power. To put it differently, I can say that while Republicans adopt a nationalist approach to US foreign policy, Democrats adopt an internationalist approach. The nationalist approach puts US interests first and foremost, which necessitates advancing policies that foster economic independence and preferring unilateral policies pertaining to diplomacy and global engagement. On the contrary, the international approach focuses on cooperating and coordinating with other nations and within international organisations as well as offering aid to poor or developing countries.

Comparing foreign policies of Republicans and Democrats within the legislative branch of the US government necessitates comparing Congress laws' sponsored by members of Congress about various issues in the region for which I chose the period between 1973 and 2017. This timeframe coincides with critical events that start with the oil crisis of 1973, proceed with many US interventions in the region and end with the election of Donald Trump.

## Data collection

To collect data pertaining to Congress laws, I will use the official website of Congress ([www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)) which remains a very comprehensive and trustworthy source as it is managed by the US government. The website's menu constitutes of ten sections. Each section includes different data from 1973 to the present. These sections are 'current legislation', 'all legislation', 'all sources', 'members', 'congressional record', 'committee reports', 'nominations', 'treaty documents', 'house communications' and 'senate communications'.

In addition to searching using one of these sections, the website allows users to add key words in an internal search engine to make the search more specific. Because this paper is interested in comparing foreign policies of Republicans and Democrats in the MENA area within Congress, I chose the 'all legislation' section as it allows us to collect the largest data possible in addition to the keyword 'middle east' to limit the search to our geographical context.

Running a search across the 'all legislation' section on December 21, 2017 at 11:35 AM GMT resulted in 5866 legislations which include bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions. However, I am interested in the types of legislation that have the force of law because they require the approval of both the House of Representatives and the Senate as well as the signature of the President to become laws. This means that these laws deal with important matters for the U.S. because both chambers of the legislative power, along with the executive one, agree on. In so saying, I used a second criterion to limit my search within the 'all legislation' section. In addition to 'middle east', I added 'law' as another keyword in the search engine. Running the search again across the 'all legislation' section on December 21, 2017 at 11:40 AM GMT generated 3679 legislations. The following is a screenshot of how each legislation is presented.

**Figure 1. A screenshot of how each legislation is presented.**

**BILL**

1. **S.1388** — 112th Congress (2011-2012)

**Middle East and North Africa Transition and Development Act**

**Sponsor:** [Kerry, John F. \[Sen.-D-MA\]](#) (Introduced 07/19/2011) **Cosponsors:** (2)

**Committees:** Senate - Foreign Relations

**Latest Action:** Senate - 07/19/2011 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. ([All Actions](#))

**Tracker:** **Introduced**

Source: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)

Skimming through the first entries reveals that not all of them serve both the paper's aforementioned purposes; that is to say, relevance to the Middle East region and being a law. This can be easily found from the way resolutions appear in the search results as it is illustrated by the example above. The bill's designation 'Middle East and North Africa Transition and Development Act' shows that it is relevant to the first purpose of this paper as it relates to the MENA area. However, it does not serve the paper's second purpose because it did not become a law as the tracker shows. It was just introduced in the Senate. In contrast, the example below shows a resolution which became a law, but it has nothing to do with the MENA region as its title indicates: 'Kentucky National Forest Land Transfer Act of 2000.

**Figure 2. A screenshot of how a different piece of legislation is presented.**

LAW

1. [H.R.4811](#) — 106th Congress (1999-2000)  
**Kentucky National Forest Land Transfer Act of 2000**  
**Sponsor:** [Callahan, Sonny \[Rep.-R-AL-1\]](#) (Introduced 07/10/2000) **Cosponsors:** (0)  
**Committees:** House - Appropriations  
**Committee Reports:** [H. Rept. 106-720](#), [H. Rept. 106-997](#)  
**Latest Action:** 11/06/2000 Became [Public Law No: 106-429](#). ([PDF](#)) ([All Actions](#))  
**Notes:** [H.R. 5526](#), another FY2001 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, was incorporated and its text included in the [H.R. 4811](#) conference report: [H.Rept. 106-997](#). [H.R. 5526](#) was enacted by reference in sec. 101a of P.L. 106-429. [S. 3140](#), the Kentucky National Forest Land Transfer Act, was...  
**Tracker:** Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > Resolving Differences > To President > Became Law

Source: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)

Therefore, I had to skim through all 3679 resolutions to find those that became laws and, at the same time, relate to the Middle East region. This was time-consuming, but there was no other way to do that. In fact, the resolution's title and the tracker part of each entry made the skimming process quicker and resulted in finding 126 laws. These laws were organized in a table of 7 columns (see Appendix.). The first indicates the order in which the legislation appears in the search results. The other columns, from left to right, show the law's title, a short summary of its goals and motivation, the assigned number, the date when it was enacted, its sponsor, and the sponsor's party affiliation. This information allows us to draw very important conclusions about the difference between the foreign policies of Republican and Democratic members of Congress in the Middle East and North Africa.

### Analyses and Findings

It is worth reminding that our comparison is based on 126 laws adopted between 1973 and 2017, all dealing with various issues related to the MENA area. About 68 percent (86 laws) were sponsored by Republican members of Congress and Democrats sponsored 32 percent (40 laws). This means that Republicans are more involved in the region than Democrats. It is also worth noting that the comparison was conducted in the light of Joseph Nye's concepts of 'soft', 'hard' and smart powers in foreign policies as I explained in the introduction.

### Laws sponsored by Republican members of Congress

A thorough reading of the 86 laws sponsored by Republican members of Congress reveals that they can be classified in three major categories in addition to other miscellaneous issues.

The first major category illustrates the use of 'hard power' which constitutes about 51% of the total laws sponsored by Republicans. 63% of the laws that illustrate the use of hard power relate to imposing economic and financial sanctions on countries and organizations that are believed to endanger US interests in the region. Other laws illustrating the use of hard power pertain to authorizing the use of military force against regimes and groups that represent a danger for US interests in the area. These these laws constitute about 23% of the laws that exemplify the use of hard power. The rest of the laws dealing with hard power, which constitute 14%, are appropriations authorized to cover the expenses of military operations in the area.

The second major category of laws sponsored by Republican members of Congress illustrates the use of 'soft power', which constitutes about 12% of the total laws sponsored

by Republicans. 70% of these laws relate to bilateral cooperation and agreements with some countries in the region. These include Free Trade Agreements with Morocco, Bahrain, Oman and Jordan in addition to defense cooperation with Jordan. The rest of the laws illustrating the use of ‘soft power’ include establishing and appropriating funds for educational and cultural programs that aim at polishing the image of the US among Arab and Muslim youth as well as providing economic, technical and humanitarian aid to Iraq and Syria in addition to supporting peace in the Sudan.

The third major category is Israel. I included this as a major category because the laws that relate to this country constitute about 27% of the total laws sponsored by Republican members of Congress in the MENA area. 57% of the laws relating to Israel aim at protecting this country through imposing financial sanctions on and strengthening prohibitions against the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, commanding other countries to stop their support to these organizations as well as limiting or stopping financial and humanitarian assistance to Gaza and the West Bank. Protecting Israel is also accomplished through defending this country from within international organizations, especially the United Nations, through vetoing the resolutions that condemn Israel’s settlements, combat anti-Semitic acts in the UN and counter anti-Israel boycott.

The laws relating to Israel also aim at strengthening this country economically, scientifically and politically. These laws constitute 30% of the total laws relating to Israel and include recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and establishing bilateral economic and research agreements. Last but not least, 13% of the laws relating to Israel deal with some symbolic actions such as congratulating Egypt and Israel for the the tenth anniversary of their peace agreement and honoring Anwar Sadat and Shimon Perez for their peace efforts.

In addition to these three major categories, the laws sponsored by Republicans deal with other issues that cannot be included in one of the three major categories. These laws constitute 10% of the total laws sponsored by Republicans and deal with various issues. First, there are few immigration laws that grant refugee status to Iraqis and people from the greater Middle East area during the first Gulf War, adjust the status of some Syrian Jewish nationals to permanent residents as well as grant special immigrant status to Iraqi and Afghan translators. Second, I found that there are some laws which I called ‘symbolic’ because they symbolically honor Americans who are stationed or held hostage in the Middle East through establishing a national day or approving the location of a memorial in their honor. Last but not least, there was a law called “Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act of 2006” which requires the special Inspector General to provide a forensic audit report on the funds appropriated to reconstruct Iraq.

**Table 1. MENA-related laws sponsored by Republican members of Congress.**

<b>Major category</b>	<b>(%) to total laws sponsored</b>	<b>Sub-category</b>	<b>(%) to total laws of the major category</b>	<b>Law numbers<sup>a</sup></b>
Hard power	51	Imposing economic and financial sanction	63	12, 19, 25, 29, 30, 32, 33, 36, 39, 40, 41, 54, 55, 57, 67, 68, 70, 74, 83, 88, 96, 105, 112,



				117, 119, 121, 122, 126
		Authorizing the use of force	23	24, 45, 49, 62, 63, 69, 75, 87, 100, 114
		Appropriating funds for military operations	14	14, 37, 38, 43, 84, 99
Soft power	12	Bilateral agreements including FTAs	70	21, 50, 53, 98, 108, 115, 116
		Other means including cultural and exchange programs, peacekeeping and humanitarian aid	30	28, 35, 94
Israel	27	Protecting Israel	57	6, 7, 8, 13, 16, 22, 58, 59, 61, 101, 102, 103, 111
		Empowering Israel	30	20, 27, 48, 64, 93, 109, 124
		Others	13	2, 3, 17
Miscellaneous	10	These mainly include laws on immigration and some symbolic actions		1, 4, 42, 51, 66, 82, 92, 106, 113

<sup>a</sup> The order number of laws as shown in the Appendix

### **Laws sponsored by Democratic members of Congress.**

Similar to what I found about the laws sponsored by Republican members of Congress, the laws sponsored by Democrats can be classified into three major categories in addition to few miscellaneous issues. The first major category, which constitutes 32.5% of the total laws sponsored by Democrats, illustrates the use of hard power. These laws include applying economic and financial sanctions on regimes and groups that endanger US interests in the region, which represent about 69% of the laws illustrating the use of hard power. 23% of the laws illustrating hard power are about appropriating funds to finance military operations in the region, and 8% only is about authorizing the use of military force.

The second major category illustrates the use of soft power, which constitutes 20% of the total laws sponsored by Democratic members of Congress. 37.5% of these are about establishing bilateral economic and defense partnerships and 62.5% deal with authorizing arms sales, repealing the use of force, condemning violent actions, taking security measures to combat terrorism, preventing a country from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and supporting ceasefire.

The third major category is Israel, which constitutes 32.5% of the total laws sponsored by Democratic members of Congress. 54% of these laws aim at strengthening this country through establishing strategic and defense bilateral partnerships and providing financial aid. 23% of Israel related laws aim at protecting Israel through sanctioning the Palestinian Liberation Organization, securing the return of Israeli soldiers, commanding another Arab country to stop its support to Palestinian groups that are believed to endanger Israel's security, and countering an international attempt to boycott Israel. The remaining laws deal with providing preferential visa treatment to Israelis to enter the US as well as other symbolic actions such as reaffirming the bonds with Israel in the 50th anniversary of its establishment and awarding Shimon Perez a Gold medal.

In addition to these three major categories, the laws sponsored by Democrats deal with other issues which constitute 15% of the total laws. The most important of these laws are about immigration including banning Trump's executive order, which aimed at banning citizens from seven Arab countries from entering the US. This is in addition to granting the Iraqis, employed by the US federal government during the Gulf War, a special immigrant status in the US. The remaining law deals with a symbolic action that awards gold medals to US soldiers who took part in military operations in the region.

**Table 2. MENA-related laws sponsored by Democratic members of Congress**

Major category	(%) to total laws sponsored	Sub-category	(%) to total laws of the major category	Law numbers <sup>a</sup>
Hard power	32.5	Imposing economic and financial sanction	69	34, 44, 46, 65, 76, 78, 81, 91, 120
		Authorizing the use of force	8	56
		Appropriating funds for military operations	23	11, 31, 97
Soft power	20	Bilateral agreements including FTAs	37.5	72, 73, 85
		Other means including cultural and exchange programs, peacekeeping and humanitarian aid	62.5	18, 26, 47, 95, 104
Israel	32.5	Protecting Israel	23	23, 60, 118
		Empowering Israel	54	9, 10, 15, 71, 77, 86, 89
		Others	23	5, 90, 125

Miscellaneous	15	These mainly include laws on immigration and some symbolic actions	n/a	52, 79, 80, 107, 110, 123
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<sup>a</sup> The order number of laws as shown in the Appendix

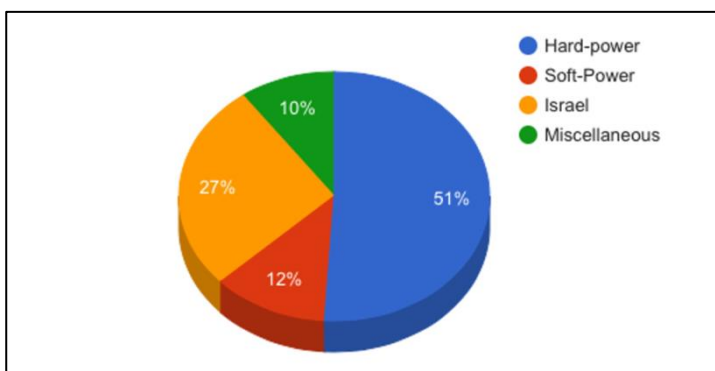
### Analyses and Findings

The above analyses of the laws sponsored by Republican and Democratic members of Congress show that there are three major points of comparison pertaining to US foreign policies in the MENA area. That is to say, the use of hard power, the use of soft power, and Israel. Tables 1 and 2 show that both Republican and Democratic members of Congress use more means of hard power than soft power in their foreign policies in the MENA area. However, Republicans are generally more likely to use means of hard power than Democrats, especially the use of force. On the other hand, Democrats are generally more likely to use means of soft power than Republicans, except for establishing Free Trade Agreements with the countries of the region. To illustrate, all Free Trade Agreements which the US has established with Arab countries, including Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, and Oman, were sponsored by Republicans. This indicates that Republicans are more keen on looking for external economic opportunities in the region than Democrats.

I also noticed that unlike Republicans, Democrats are more likely to use the so called ‘smart power’ which is an effective and a balanced combination of soft and hard powers in foreign policy. To illustrate, while the percent difference between the use of hard power and the use of soft power remains significant among Republicans (39%), that difference is comparatively insignificant among Democrats (12.5%).

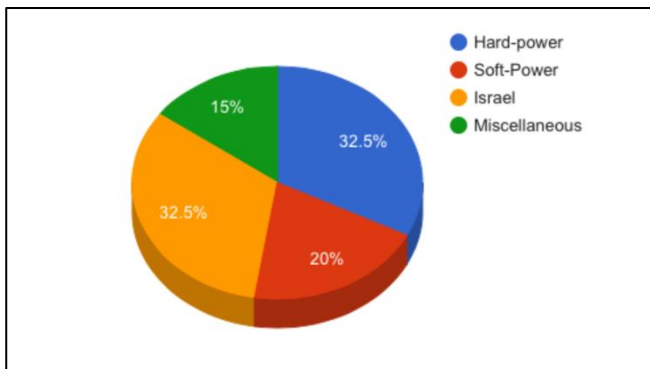
The third major point of comparison is Israel which occupies a very important place in US foreign policy for both Republican and Democratic members of Congress. 32.5% of the laws sponsored by democrats and 27% of the laws sponsored by Republicans aim at protecting and strengthening Israel through various means. To put it differently, none of the laws relating to Israel deal with an aspect of hard power unlike the other laws relating to other countries in the region, which deal with various aspects of both soft and hard powers. Clearly, while there is a significant difference between foreign policies of Republican and Democratic members of Congress in terms of the use of ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ powers, this difference is far less significant when it comes to laws dealing with Israel. Last but not least, from the few laws dealing with immigration, I noticed that Democrats tend to be more open to people from the region than Republicans. Figure 3 and Figure 4 sums up the findings of this paper.

**Figure 3. Categories of laws sponsored by Republicans in the MENA region.**



Source: Author's elaboration.

**Figure 4. Categories of laws sponsored by Democrats in the MENA region.**



Source: Author's elaboration.

### Conclusion

Considering that US political parties do not have constitutionally recognized functions, their importance lies in the fact that they nominate candidates to take constitutionally established responsibilities as Presidents or members of Congress. This paper aimed to compare and contrasting the foreign policies of Republican and Democratic members of Congress from 1973 to 2017 in the MENA area in the light of the concepts of Nye's conceptualizations of hard, soft, and smart powers.

The analyses of the laws sponsored by Republican and Democratic members of Congress led to the following findings. It is essential to point out that while the general findings might not sound very original, the originality of the paper stems from how I explained what might be considered a spread knowledge or not original findings, especially about how I collected data, categorized them and analysed them.

To begin with, regardless of their party affiliations, all members of Congress agree on protecting and strengthening Israel through using means of soft and hard powers, which is not a surprising finding. In addition, I noted that Republican members of Congress are more likely to use means of hard power than Democrats, especially the use of force. In contrast, Democrats are more likely to use means of soft power, including diplomatic and strategic cooperation. Democrats are also more likely to apply the concept of 'smart power' because there is a good balance between their use of hard and soft powers unlike Republicans whose use of hard power is widely unbalanced with that of soft power. Indeed, this finding about the use of smart power is particularly interesting and novel in the literature. Furthermore, Republicans tend to be more keen on looking for economic opportunities in the region than Democrats, which can be illustrated by the fact that Republican members of Congress sponsored all Free Trade Agreements signed with countries in the region. Even though Republicans are more liberal economically speaking and, therefore, are more likely to seek economic opportunities through FTAs, it is interesting to find that all FTAs were initiated by Republicans. Last but not least, I noticed that Democrats tend to be more open and lenient than Republicans in terms of their immigration policies vis-à-vis the region's citizens.

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**APPENDIX. Congress Laws about the Middle East and North Africa (1973-2017)**

N	Laws' titles	Goal & motivation as specified in the law	Ref.	Date	Sponsor	Party
1	To designate November 2, 1990, as a national day of prayer for members of American military forces and American citizens stationed or held hostage in the Middle East, and for their families.	Praying for US forces and citizens held hostage in the Middle East and urging the President and Iraqi authorities to find a just resolution for the crisis there.	<a href="#">H.J.Res.673</a>	11-14-90	John Duncan	R
2	Anwar Sadat Centennial Celebration Act	Arrange for the posthumous award of a Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions to attain comprehensive peace in the Middle East.	S.266	02-01-17	Orrin G. Hatch	R
3	Anwar Sadat Centennial Celebration Act	Arrange for the posthumous award of a Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions to attain comprehensive peace in the Middle East.	H.R.754	01-31-17	Christ Stewart	R
4	Persian Gulf War POW/MIA Accountability Act of 2002	Grant Refugee status in the US to any alien from Iraq or the Greater Middle East Region.	S. 1339	10-29-02	Ben Nighthorse Campbell	R
5	Expressing the sense of Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.	Commend the Israelis for building a new state and a pluralistic society.  Reaffirmed the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the US and Israel.	H.J.Res.102	05-11-98	Tom Lantos	D
6	Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003	Syria should stop its support for terrorism and close terrorist offices of Hamas, Hizbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine,	S.Con.Res.19	03-04-07	Lindsey Graham	R
7	Safeguard Israel Act of 2017	Prohibits the U.S. government from making any contributions to the UN	H.R.769	01-31-17	Kay Granger	R

		until the President certifies to Congress that Security Council Resolution 2334 has been repealed. This Resolution describes Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as illegal and demands cessation of settlement activities.				
8	Safeguard Israel Act of 2017	Prohibits the U.S. government from making any contributions to the UN until the President certifies to Congress that Security Council Resolution 2334 has been repealed. This Resolution describes Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as illegal and demands cessation of settlement activities.	S. 107	01-12-17	Ted Cruz	R
9	Emergency Security Assistance Act	Authorizes an appropriation to the President of \$2,200,000,000 for emergency military assistance or foreign military Sales credits to Israel and an appropriation not to exceed \$200,000,000 for Cambodia.  Authorizes the release of Israel from its liability for articles and services supplied for the period between October 6, 1973 through June 30, 1974.	H.R.11088	12-26-73	Thomas E. Morgen	D
10	An act to authorize supplemental international security assistance for the fiscal year 1979 in support of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and for other purposes.	Authorizes the President to construct air bases in Israel and furnish defense articles and services to Israel.  Authorizes appropriations for such purposes.  Authorizes additional appropriations for fiscal year 1979 under the Arms Export Control Act to be used for arms sales guaranties to Egypt and Israel.  Authorizes additional appropriations for fiscal	S. 1007	07-20-79	Franck Church	D

		<p>year 1979 for Egypt through the Economic Support Fund.</p> <p>Authorizes the President to transfer to Egypt the facilities and property of the U.S. Sinai Field Mission.</p>				
11	Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1991	Authorizes additional funds for the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation to cover the expenses of the operation.	H.R.1282	04-10-91	Jamie L. Whitten	D
12	Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act of 2017	<p>Directs the Departments of State, Defense, and Treasury and the Director of National Intelligence to submit a strategy every two years for deterring Iranian activities that threaten the US and key allies in the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond.</p> <p>The President shall impose asset blocking and U.S. exclusion sanctions against any person that contributes to these activities.</p>	S. 722	06-29-17	Bob Corker	R
13	PLO Accountability Act of 2017	To strengthen prohibitions regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization, and for other purposes	S. 1060	05-04-17	Ted Cruz	R
14	Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018	Authorizes appropriations for these governmental agencies to fund many organizations such as the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund and the Israeli AraScholarship	H.R3362	07-24-17	Harold Rogers	R
15	United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014	<p>Transfer military items to Israel.</p> <p>Provide assistance in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, and alternative fuel technologies.</p> <p>Share and exchange information and scientific knowledge.</p> <p>Make sure that any US export or sale of military</p>	S.2673	12-19-14	Barbara Boxer	D



		equipment will not affect Israel's military power.				
16	Countering Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israel Activities at the United Nations Act of 2017	Use financial U.S. influence at the U.N. to reduce anti-Semitism in the U.N., including among its employees and its specialized agencies, programs, and funds. This includes withholding funds for any organization or agency that supports Terrorist designated groups such as Hamas. For example, The United Nations Relief, and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	S. 169	01-17-17	Marco Rubio	R
17	A joint resolution to commend the Governments of Israel and Egypt on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Treaty of Peace between Israel and Egypt.	Commends the two countries for signing the Treaty of Peace on March 26, 1979.  Calls upon the Palestinians and other Arab states to join the peace process.  Renounce war and enter peace negotiations with Israel.	S.J Res.87	03-29-89	Rudy Boschwitz	R
18	Combatting Terrorism in Tunisia Emergency Support Act of 2017	Help combat terrorism in Tunisia and Libya and prevent fighters in Syria from returning to Tunisia.  Strengthen Tunisia's security sector and increase economic cooperation.  Authorize the President to provide defense articles and training to Tunisia.	H.R.157	01-03-17	Alcee L. Hastings	D
19	Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012	Impose multilateral sanctions on Iran because of its nuclear program.  Promote human rights in Syria.	H.R.1905	08-10-12	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	R
20	United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012	Reaffirm the commitment to Israel's security as a Jewish state.  Support Israel's right to self-defense and help Israel preserve its qualitative military edge.  Assist in a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-	S.2165	07-27-12	Barbara Boxer	D

		<p>Palestinian conflict that results in two states living side-by-side in peace and security.</p> <p>Veto any one-sided anti-Israel U.N. Security Council resolution.</p>				
21	United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act	Negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding through FY2022 to enhance Jordan's military capacity and local economy.	R.H.2646	06-29-17	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	R
22	Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006	<p>Support the two-state solution to the Palestinian Israeli Conflict.</p> <p>Oppose organizations, individuals and countries that support terrorism and violently reject the two-state solution.</p> <p>Urge members of the international community to avoid contact with and refrain from financially supporting the terrorist organization Hamas until it agrees to recognize Israel, renounce violence, disarm and accept prior agreements.</p>	S.2370	12-21-06	Mitch McConnell	R
23	Israel Anti-Boycott Act	<p>Opposes the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution of March 24, 2016, which urges countries to pressure companies to divest from, or break contracts with, Israel.</p> <p>Encourages full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 through enhanced, government wide, coordinated U.S.-Israel scientific and technological cooperation.</p>	S.720	03-23-17	Benjamin Cardin	D
24	Authorization for Use of Military Force Against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria	Authorizes the President to use force when necessary against these organizations.	H.J.Res.89	03-15-17	Jim Banks	R
25	A joint resolution finding the Government	Urges the President to take appropriate action under	S.J.Res.54	08-14-98	Trent Lott	R

	of Iraq in unacceptable and material breach of its international obligations.	U.S. law to bring Iraq into compliance with such obligations.				
26	Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007	Take various security measures to combat terrorism.	H.R.1	08-03-07	Bennie Thompson	D
27	Recognition of Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel Act	Recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel and Transfer US embassy there from Tel Aviv.	H.R.257	02-16-17	Trent Franks	R
28	Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001	This was launched after 9/11 to enhance domestic security and surveillance procedures, counter money laundering, protect the borders, enhance immigration provisions, remove obstacles to investigating terrorism and strengthen intelligence.	H.R.3162	10-26-01	James F. Sensenbrenner	R
29	Iran Ballistic Missile Sanctions Act	Impose sanctions on Iran and related entities and persons for actions to acquire or develop ballistic missiles and launch technology.	S.15	01-03-17	Dean Heller	R
30	Iran and Hizballah Western Hemisphere Prevention Act of 2017	Put more Sanctions on Iran and Hizballah	H.R.3118	09-05-17	Jeff Duncan	R
31	Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Consequences of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Food Stamps, Unemployment Compensation Administration, Veterans Compensation and Pensions, and Other Urgent Needs Act of 1991	Provide emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations during the Gulf War against Iraq and other issues.	H.R.1281	04-10-91	Jamie L. Whitten	D
32	Iran Freedom Support Act	Promote Democracy for Iran  Amend the Sanctions Act of 1996 against Iran and facilitating its nuclear nonproliferation. Prevent money laundering for weapons of mass destruction.	H.R.9198	09-30-06	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	R

33	Iran Nonnuclear Sanctions Act of 2017	Require sanctions on Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corp, related entities and the individuals who support terrorism, abuse human rights and promote ballistic missile program	H.R.808	02-06-17	Peter j. Roskam	R
34	Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010	Strong additional sanctions are imposed on Iran because of its nuclear program and supporting international terrorism as well as human rights abuses.	H.R.2194	07-01-10	Howard I. Berman	D
35	Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017	Ensure that humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery assistance for nationals and residents of Iraq or Syria.  Provide financial and technical assistance to support nongovernmental organizations with expertise to address crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes in Iraq since January 2014.	H.R.390	06-19-17	Christopher H. Smith	R
36	Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act.	Enforcing sanctions on Iran.	H.R.1698	03-29-17	Edward. R. Royce	R
37	Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004	Makes emergency supplemental appropriations for FY 2004 for military and foreign affairs operations concerning Iraq and Afghanistan, including for Iraqi relief and reconstruction.	H.R.3289	11-06-03	Bill C.W. Young	R
38	Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002	Appropriate funds for military personnel, operations and maintenance, procurement, R & D in response to 9/11.	H.R.3338	01-10-02	Jerry Lewis	R
39	Iran Sanctions Extension Act	It extends the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 through December 31, 2026.	H.R.6297	12-15-16	Edward Royce	R
40	Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act	This includes countering Iran's destabilizing activities act of 2017.	H.R.3364	08-02-17	Edward Royce	R

		Countering Russian influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017, and the Korean interdiction and modernization sanctions act.				
41	Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act	The Department of Treasury should make a report of the Iranian officials assets held in the US and foreign financial institutions, and how such assets were acquired and used.  Combat money laundering to stop Iran from developing its ballistic missile program.	H.R.1638	05-18-17	Bruce Poliquin	R
42	A joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.	Approves the location within Washington, DC and the surrounding area of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial authorized to be established under the Carl Levin and Howard P. `Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.	S.J.RES.1	03-31-17	John Boozman	R
43	2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response To Terrorist Attacks on the United States	Supplemental Appropriations which aim at establishing a set of measures in various departments to help recover from and respond to 9/11 attacks	H.R.4775	08-02-02	Bill C.W. Young	R
44	To amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006.	Extend the authorities provided in the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 until September 29, 2006.	H.R.5877	08-04-06	Alcee L. Hastings	D
45	Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Islamist Extremism	To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against organizations that support Islamist extremism, and for other purposes.	H.J.Res.112	07-10-17	Scott Perry	R
46	Libyan Claims Resolution Act	Congress supports the President's efforts to provide fair compensation to all U.S. nationals who have terrorism-related claims against Libya as part of the process of restoring normal U.S.-Libya relations.	S.3370	08-04-08	Joseph R. Biden Jr	D
47	To repeal the Authorization for Use of	Repeals the Authorization for Use of Military Force	H.R.1230	02-27-17	Barbara Lee	D



	Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.	Against Iraq Resolution of 2002.				
48	Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act of 2017	To recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel.  The U.S. Embassy in Israel should be established in Jerusalem not later than January 1, 2019.	H.R.265	01-04-17	Leonard Lance	R
49	Iraq Liberation Act of 1998	Declares that it should be the policy of the United States to seek to remove the Saddam Hussein regime from power in Iraq and to replace it with a democratic government.	H.R.4655	10-31-98	Benjamin A. Gilman	R
50	United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act	This includes general provisions, customs provision, relief from imports, Textile and apparel safeguard measures.	H.R.4842	08-17-04	Tom Delay	R
51	To provide for the adjustment of status of certain Syrian nationals.	Directs the Attorney General to adjust the alien status of certain Syrian (Jewish) nationals who arrived in the United States after December 31, 1991, to permanent resident status.  Limits the total number of such adjustees to 2,000.  Provides for similar adjustment of such alien's wife, child, or unmarried son or daughter.	H.R.4681	10-27-00	Rick Lazio	R
52	To extend the period during which Iraqis who were employed by the United States Government in Iraq may be granted special immigrant status and to temporarily increase the fee or surcharge for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas.	Directs the Secretary of State to increase the fee or surcharge authorized under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 by \$1 for processing machine-readable nonimmigrant visas and machine-readable combined border crossing identification cards and nonimmigrant visas.  Requires amounts collected as a result of the fee increase to be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.	H.R.3233	10-04-13	Earl Blumenauer	D

53	United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015	<p>Support Jordan in its response to the Syrian refugee crisis.</p> <p>Provide necessary assistance to support the basic needs of the assimilated Syrian refugees.</p> <p>Cooperate with Jordan to combat the terrorist threat from ISIL or other terrorist organizations.</p> <p>Help secure the border between Jordan and Syria and Iraq.</p> <p>The Arms Export Control Act is amended to include Jordan among the countries eligible for certain streamlined defense sales for three years.</p>	H.R.907	02-18-16	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	R
54	Countering Iran in the Western Hemisphere Act of 2012	Use a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing hostile presence in the Western Hemisphere by working together with U.S. allies and partners in the region to deter threats to U.S. interests by Iran, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the IRGC's Qods Force, and Hezbollah.	H.R.3783	12-28-12	Jeff Duncan	R
55	IRGC Terrorist Sanctions Act of 2017	<p>Designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist entity,</p> <p>Impose sanctions against the IRGC.</p>	H.R.478	01-13-17	Ted Poe	R
56	Consolidated Authorization for Use of Military Force Resolution of 2017	This joint resolution authorizes the President, for three years, to use all necessary and appropriate force to protect U.S. national security against Al Qaeda, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Afghan Taliban, and any associated organized and armed group that is a co-belligerent against the United States.	H.J.Res.100	04-27-17	Adam B. Schiff	D

57	Iran Nonproliferation Amendments Act of 2005	Amends the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000	S.1713	11-22-05	Richard g. Lugar	R
58	A bill to extend authorities under the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994 until August 15, 1995.	Amends the act to extend from July 1, 1995, to August 15, 1995, the President's authority to suspend the applicability of certain laws to the Palestine Liberation Organization.	S.962	07-02-95	Hesse Helms	R
59	To extend authorities under the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1994 until March 31, 1996, and for other purposes.	To extend, from December 31, 1995, through March 31, 1996, the President's authority to suspend specified prohibitions against foreign and UN assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the receipt or expenditure of PLO funds, and PLO membership in the IMF	H.R.2808	01-04-96	Benjamin A. Gilman	R
60	Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1993	Grants the President the authority to suspend specified provisions of law which prohibit foreign and UN assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the receipt or expenditure of PLO funds, and PLO membership in the IMF.	S.1487	10-28-93	Claiborne Pell	D
61	PLO Accountability Act of 2017	This bill amends the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987 to authorize the President to waive for up to six months the prohibition against establishment or maintenance of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) offices, headquarters, premises, or other facilities within U.S. jurisdiction if the President certifies to Congress that the Palestinians have entered into a final negotiated peace agreement with, and have ceased hostilities against, Israel.	H.R.2390	05-18-17	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	R
62	Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria	This joint resolution: (1) authorizes the President to use all necessary and appropriate force against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, the Islamic State of Iraq and	S.J.Res.31	03-02-17	Todd Young	R

		Syria (ISIS), successor organizations, and associated forces; and (2) grants specific statutory authorization to introduce U.S. Armed Forces into hostilities or into situations wherein involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances.				
63	Authorization for the Use of Military Force against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.	Authorizes the President to use the U.S. Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or associated persons or forces.	H.J.RES63	02-03-17	Adam Kinzinger	R
64	Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act	This bill states that it should be U.S. policy to recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel.	S.11	01-03-17	Dean Heller	R
65	Iran Ballistic Missile Reporting Act of 2017	Amends the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to extend through December 31, 2022, requirements for quarterly reports by: (1) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on confirmed ballistic missile launches by Iran, and (2) the Departments of State and the Treasury on any efforts to impose unilateral or multilateral sanctions against the appropriate entities or individuals in connection with such a launch.	H.R.3078	06-27-17	Ruben J. Kuhen	D
66	Approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.	This joint resolution approves the location within Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial authorized to be established under the Carl Levin and Howard P. `Buck' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015	H.J.Res.3	01-05-17	David P. Roe	R
67	Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act	This bill requires the President to transmit to Congress every six months for five years determinations and	H.R.2185	04-27-17	Robert Pittenger	R

		certifications of whether, on or after January 30, 2016: (1) specified foreign financial institutions, including Iranian financial institutions, have facilitated significant transactions or provided services for foreign terrorist organizations, sanctioned foreign persons, or Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps or any of its officials, agents, or affiliates; and (2) specified foreign persons have knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services for any such persons or entities.				
68	Stop Arming Terrorists Act	Prohibits the use of federal agency funds to provide covered assistance to: (1) Al Qaeda, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or any individual or group that is affiliated with, associated with, cooperating with, or adherents to such groups; or (2) the government of any country that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) determines has, within the most recent 12 months, provided covered assistance to such a group or individual.	S.532	03-06-17	Rand Paul	R
69	Comprehensive Strategy to Destroy ISIS Act of 2017	A compressive strategic plan to fight and eliminate ISIS	H.R.1785	05-18-17	Adam Kinzinger	R
70	To amend the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 to modify the requirement to impose sanctions with respect to the provision of specialized financial messaging services to the Central Bank of Iran and other sanctioned Iranian financial institutions, and for other purposes.	President imposes sanctions under the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 with respect to the provision of specialized financial messaging services to the Central Bank of Iran and other sanctioned Iranian financial institutions. This requirement may not be waived. Sanctions are expanded to include, in the case of an alien who is a	H.R.2081	05-01-17	Lee M. Zeldin	R

		senior executive or member of the board of directors of a person that provides such messaging services, visa denial and exclusion from the United States, and revocation of any visa or other documentation.				
71	United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2017	Requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish a grant program to support cybersecurity research and development, and the demonstration and commercialization of cybersecurity technology, in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Science and Technology for Homeland Security Matters, done at Jerusalem, dated May 29, 2008, or a successor agreement.	S.719	03-23-17	Sheldon Whitehouse	D
72	To provide limitations on the transfer of air-to-ground munitions from the United States to Saudi Arabia.	Prohibits the transfer to Saudi Arabia of U.S. air-to-ground munitions until the President certifies to Congress that: (1) Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners are taking all feasible precautions to reduce the risk of civilian harm and exercising proportional use of force in the course of military actions and are making demonstrable efforts to facilitate the flow of critical humanitarian aid and commercial goods; and (2) Saudi Arabia is taking effective measures to target designated foreign terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and affiliates of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, as part of its military operations in Yemen.	H.J.Res104	05-25-17	Ted Lieu	D



73	To provide limitations on the transfer of air-to-ground munitions from the United States to Saudi Arabia.	Prohibits the transfer to Saudi Arabia of U.S. air-to-ground munitions until the President certifies to Congress that: (1) Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners are taking all feasible precautions to reduce the risk of civilian harm and exercising proportional use of force in the course of military actions and are making demonstrable efforts to facilitate the flow of critical humanitarian aid and commercial goods; and (2) Saudi Arabia is taking effective measures to target designated foreign terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and affiliates of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, as part of its military operations in Yemen.	S.J.Res.40	04-06-17	Christopher Murphy	D
74	No Bonuses for Terrorists Act	This bill amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to prohibit the provision of assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) until the Department of State has certified that the PA and the PLO have ceased paying financial compensation or any other benefit not generally available to the Palestinian population at large to the families of Palestinians killed in connection with an act of terrorism.	H.R.789	02-01-17	Ted Budd	R
75	Hamas Human Shields Prevention Act	This law states that it is U.S. policy to: (1) condemn the use of human shields by Hamas as an act of terrorism and a violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, and (2) act against those engaging in or supporting the use of human shields.	H.R.3542	11-15-17	Joe Wilson	R

76	To prohibit the use of United States Government funds to provide assistance to Al Qaeda, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and to countries supporting those organizations, and for other purposes.	Prohibits the use of federal agency funds to provide covered assistance to: (1) Al Qaeda, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or any individual or group that is affiliated with, associated with, cooperating with, or adherents to such groups; or (2) the government of any country that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) determines has, within the most recent 12 months, provided covered assistance to such a group or individual.	H.R.258	01-13-17	Tulsi Gabbard	D
77	U.S.-Israel Joint Missile Defense Act	This bill authorizes the Department of Defense to conduct a test of the Arrow 3 missile defense system, in conjunction with the government of Israel, to validate the system's capabilities and improve its performance.	H.R.2240	05-23-17	Josh Gottheimer	D
78	Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003	Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 - (Sec. 3) Declares the sense of Congress that the Government of Syria should immediately and unconditionally halt support for terrorism, permanently and openly declare its total renunciation of all forms of terrorism, and close all terrorist offices and facilities in Syria, including the offices of Hamas, Hizballah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.	H.R.1828	12-12-03	Eliot L. Engel	D

79	Freedom for Refugees Escaping Enmity (FREE) Act	This bill nullifies Executive Order 13769, entitled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." No federal funds may be used to implement or enforce any of the policy changes set forth in such order. Among the order's major provisions are restrictions on the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants from seven countries (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen) and additional limitations on refugee admissions to the United States.	H.R.1075	03-06-17	Yvette D. Clarke	D
80	A bill to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes	Makes technical corrections to provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 which provide special immigrant status for certain Iraqis employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government.	S.2829	06-03-08	Edward M. Kennedy	D
81	Stop Arming Terrorists Act	This bill prohibits the use of federal agency funds to provide covered assistance to: (1) Al Qaeda, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or any individual or group that is affiliated with, associated with, cooperating with, or adherents to such groups; or (2) the government of any country that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) determines has, within the most recent 12 months, provided covered assistance to such a group or individual.	H.R.608	01-23-17	Tulsi Gabbard	D
82	Iraq Reconstruction Accountability Act of 2006	Amends the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 to change the date for termination of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (Office). Provides that the Office shall terminate 10 months	S.4046	12-20-06	Susan M. Collins	R

		<p>after 80% of the funds appropriated or made available for the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund have been expended.</p> <p>Requires the Special Inspector General, prior to the termination date of the Office, to prepare a final forensic audit report on all funds appropriated or made available to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.</p>				
83	State Sanctions Against Iranian Terrorism Act	To amend the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 to secure the authority of State and local governments to adopt and enforce measures restricting investment in business enterprises in Iran, and for other purposes.	H.R.3425	07-26-17	Ron DeSantis	R
84	Supply Our Soldiers Act of 2017	This bill directs the Department of Defense to provide for a program under which postal benefits are provided to a member of the Armed Forces who is on active duty and who is either: (1) serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, or another hostile fire area designated as eligible for hazardous duty pay; or (2) hospitalized at a military medical facility as a result of such service. The postal benefits shall be in the form of coupons, vouchers, or other evidence of credit to use for postal-free mailings. The benefits program shall apply during FY2016-FY2021.	H.R.963	03-23-17	Peter. T. King	R
85	Commission to Verify Iranian Nuclear Compliance Act	To establish the Commission to Verify Iranian Nuclear Compliance.	H.R.3810	09-21-17	Gerald E. Connolly	D

86	United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2017	Requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish a grant program to support cybersecurity research and development, and the demonstration and commercialization of cybersecurity technology, in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Science and Technology for Homeland Security Matters, dated May 29, 2008, or a successor agreement.	H.R.612	02-01-17	James R. Langevin	D
87	Authorization for Use of Military Force Against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria	To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, successor organizations, and associated forces.	S.J.Res.43	05-25-17	Jeff Flake	R
88	Iran Nonnuclear Sanctions Act of 2017	Prescribes requirements for sanctions with respect to: (1) Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and related entities; (2) Mahan Air; (3) Iran's support of terrorism; (4) Iran's human rights abuses; (5) certain Iranian individuals; (6) persons who conduct transactions with or on behalf of certain Iranian individuals; (7) financial institutions that engage in certain transactions on behalf of persons involved in human rights abuses or that export sensitive technology to Iran; (8) Iran's ballistic missile program and persons and Iranian sectors that support such program; and (9) certain entities owned by the Aerospace Industries Organization, the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, or the Shahid Bakeri Industrial Group.	S.227	01-24-17	Marco Rubio	R
89	United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act	directs the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to continue to work with the	H.R.1159	09-28-17	Derek Kilmer	D

		Israel Space Agency in identifying and cooperatively pursuing peaceful space exploration and science initiatives in areas of mutual interest.				
90	To allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel.	Makes Israeli nationals eligible to enter the United States as E-2 visa nonimmigrant investors as provided for under the Immigration and Nationality Act if Israel provides reciprocal nonimmigrant treatment to U.S. nationals.	H.R.3992	08-08-12	Howard L. Berman	D
91	Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act of 2017	Directs the Departments of State, Defense, and Treasury and the Director of National Intelligence to submit a strategy every two years for deterring Iranian activities that threaten the US and key allies in the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond.  The President shall impose asset blocking and U.S. exclusion sanctions against any person that contributes to these activities.	H.R.3203	07-24-17	Eliot. L Engel	D
92	A bill to increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants, and for other purposes.	Amends the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 to authorize special immigrant status for certain Afghan or Iraqi translators or interpreters working with the U.S. Armed Forces or federal agencies under the Chief of Mission in Afghanistan and Iraq. (Currently, such status is authorized for Afghan and Iraqi translators working with U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.)	S.1104	06-14-07	Richard G. Lugar	R
93	United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016	his bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with the Department of State, to enter cooperative programs	H.R.5877	12-1616	John Ratcliffe	R



		with Israel to enhance capabilities in cybersecurity				
94	Radio Free Afghanistan Act	Radio Free Afghanistan Act - Requires RFE/RL, Incorporated (also known as Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty) to submit to the Broadcasting Board of Governors a detailed plan for the establishment of surrogate broadcasting services (Radio Free Afghanistan) in the Dari and Pashto languages to Afghanistan. Authorizes the Board to make grants to support Radio Free Afghanistan.	H.R.2998	03-11-02	Edward R. Royce	R
95	Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act of 2017	This bill: (1) condemns the violence and human rights violations carried out by the Syrian government and pro-government forces; (2) urges all parties to halt civilian attacks; and (3) calls on the President to support efforts to ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed during the conflict.	s.905	06-12-17	Benjamin L. Cardin	D
96	Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act	This bill states that it shall be U.S. policy to condemn Hizballah's use of human shields as a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights and act against those that engage in such practice.  The President is urged to use U.S. influence at the United Nations Security Council to secure support for a resolution imposing multilateral sanctions against Hizballah for its use of human shields.	H.R.3342	10-26-17	Mile Gallagher	R
97	Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers for Relief from the Effects of Natural Disasters, for Other Urgent Needs, and for Incremental Costs of "Operation	Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations and Transfers for Relief from the Effects of Natural Disasters, for Other Urgent Needs, and for Incremental Costs of "Operation Shield/Desert Storm" Act of	H.J.Res 157	12-12-91	Jamie L Whitten	D

	Desert Shield/Desert Storm" Act of 1992	1992 - Makes dire emergency supplemental appropriations to the Department of Defense for FY 1992 for specified military procurement.				
98	United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act	This includes tariff modifications and relief from imports benefiting from the agreement as well as other provisions	H.R.2603	09-28-01	William M. Thomas	R
99	Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005	Provide Defense related supplemental appreciation pertaining to the Global War on Terror.	H.R.1268	05-11-05	Jerri Lewis	R
100	Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002	Expresses support for the President's efforts to: (1) strictly enforce through the United Nations Security Council all relevant Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq; and (2) obtain prompt and decisive action by the Security Council to ensure that Iraq abandons its strategy of delay, evasion, and noncompliance and promptly and strictly complies with all relevant Security Council resolutions.	H.J.Res.114	10-16-02	Dennis J. Hastert	R
101	Combating BDS Act of 2017	This bill allows a state or local government to adopt and enforce measures to divest its assets from, prohibit investment of its assets in, or restrict contracting with: (1) an entity that engages in a commerce- or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activity targeting Israel; or (2) an entity that owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with such an entity.	H.R.2856	06-08-17	Patrick T. McHenry	R
102	Taylor Force Act	This bill prohibits certain assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 from being made	H.R.1164	12-01-17	Doug Lamborn	R

		available for the West Bank and Gaza.				
103	Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act of 2017	<p>This bill states that it shall be U.S. policy to prevent Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or any affiliate or successor from accessing its international support networks.</p> <p>The President shall report to Congress for up to three years identifying foreign persons, agencies, or instrumentalities that knowingly and materially assist any such organization and impose sanctions on them.</p>	H.R.2712	11-18-17	Brian J. Mast	R
104	A joint resolution to support a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and a negotiated solution to the conflict.	<p>Declares that the Congress finds the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war: (1) would produce unacceptable levels of death and destruction; and (2) could result in an Iranian breakthrough which could threaten the stability of the entire region and would not be in the U.S. interest.</p> <p>Declares U.S. policy to support: (1) a cease fire and a negotiated solution to the Iran-Iraq conflict, including a withdrawal to the internationally recognized border; and (2) the establishment of an international tribunal to investigate the origins of the conflict.</p>	H.J.Res.216	08-16-87	Stephen J. Solarz	D
105	Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017	Imposes additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah,	S.1595	10-12-17	Marco Rubio	R
106	Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004	Amends the Sudan Peace Act to authorize the President to assist Sudan to: (1) support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement that applies to all regions of Sudan, including the Darfur region (authorizes FY 2005 through 2007 appropriations); and (2)	S.2781	12-23-04	Richard G. Lugar	R

		address the humanitarian and human rights crisis in the Darfur region and eastern Chad, provided that no assistance be made available to the Government of Sudan (authorizes FY 2005 appropriations).				
107	To provide for the establishment of separate campaign medals to be awarded to members of the uniformed services who participate in Operation Enduring Freedom and to members of the uniformed services who participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom.	Directs the President to establish separate campaign medals to recognize service by members of the uniformed services in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.	H.R3104	05-28-04	Vic Snyder	D
108	A joint resolution relating to the proposed sales of arms to Jordan.	Declares that no letter of offer, prior to March 1, 1986, shall be valid with respect to any proposed sales to Jordan of advanced weapons systems, including advanced aircraft and advanced air defense systems, that are described in the notification pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, unless direct peace negotiations between Israel and Jordan are underway.	S.J.Res.228	11-28-85	Robert J.Dole	R
109	Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995	Declares it to be U.S. policy that: (1) Jerusalem remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic religious group are protected; (2) Jerusalem be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel; and (3) the U.S. Embassy in Israel be established in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999.	S.1322	11-08-95	Robert J. Dole	R

110	Sudan Peace Act	Condemns violations of human rights on all sides of the conflict in Sudan (including the Government of Sudan), the ongoing slave trade there, the Government's use and organization of "murahallin" (or "mujahadeen"), Popular Defense Forces (PDF), and regular Sudanese Army units into raiding and slaving parties in Bahr al Ghazal, the Nuba Mountains, Upper Nile, and Blue Nile regions, and its aerial bombardment of civilian targets. Recognizes that the use of raiding and slaving parties is a tool for creating food shortages as a systematic means to destroy the societies, culture, and economies of the Dinka, Nuer, and Nuba peoples in a policy of low-intensity ethnic cleansing.	H.R.5531	10-21-02	Thomas G. Tancredo	R
111	Israel Anti-Boycott Act	Declares that Congress: (1) opposes the United Nations Human Rights Council resolution of March 24, 2016, which urges countries to pressure companies to divest from, or break contracts with, Israel; and (2) encourages full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 through enhanced, governmentwide, coordinated U.S.-Israel scientific and technological cooperation in civilian areas.	H.R.1697	03-23-17	Peter J. Roskam	R
112	Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017	To amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes.	H.R.3329	10-26-17	Edward R. Royce	R

113	Preventing Destabilization of Iraq and Syria Act of 2017	Directs the President to impose U.S.-based property blocking and entry sanctions against any foreign person that: (1) is responsible for or complicit in actions that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Iraq or Syria, actions or policies that undermine economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq, or the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq or Syria; (2) has materially assisted or provided financial, material, or technological support for any such activity; or (3) is owned or controlled by, or has acted on behalf of, a foreign person that has carried out any such activity.	S.138	01-12-17	Marco Rubio	R
114	Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015	<p>This bill amends the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to direct the President, within five days after reaching an agreement with Iran regarding Iran's nuclear program, to transmit to Congress:</p> <p>The text of the agreement and all related materials and annexes;</p> <p>a related verification assessment report of the Secretary of State;</p> <p>A certification that the agreement includes the appropriate terms, conditions, and duration of the agreement's requirements concerning Iran's nuclear activities, and provisions describing any sanctions to be waived, suspended, or otherwise reduced by the United States and any other nation or entity, including the United Nations; and</p>	H.R.1191	05-02-15	Lou Barletta	R



		A certification that the agreement meets U.S. non-proliferation objectives, does not jeopardize the common defense and security, provides a framework to ensure that Iran's nuclear activities will not constitute an unreasonable defense and security risk, and ensures that Iran's permitted nuclear activities will not be used to further any nuclear-related military or nuclear explosive purpose, including any related research.				
115	United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act	The agreement general provisions, relief from imports, and customs provisions.	H.R.4340	01-11-06	Roy Blunt	R
116	United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act	The agreement general provisions, relief from imports, customs provisions and safeguard measures.	H.R.5684	09-26-06	John A. Boehner	R
117	ILSA Extension Act of 2001	ILSA Extension Act of 2001 - Amends the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (ILSA) to lower from \$40 million to \$20 million the threshold amount a foreign person's or entity's knowing investment in Libya's ability to develop its petroleum resources must reach before the President is required to impose two or more specified economic and trade sanctions (the same trigger threshold amount for investment in Iranian energy resources).	H.R.1954	08-03-01	Benjamin A. Gilman	R
118	To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.	Requires the Department of State to raise the matter of Zachary Baumel (a U.S. citizen), Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman with the appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and with other governments in the region and elsewhere which in the Department's view may be helpful in	H.R.1175	11-08-99	Tom Lantos	D

		locating and securing the return of these soldiers.				
119	End Subsidizing Palestinian Terrorism Act	To prohibit assistance for the Palestinian Authority and the West Bank and Gaza, and for other purposes.	H.R.2497	05-17-17	Trent Franks	R
120	Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2017	Declares that it is U.S. policy to use all diplomatic and economic means to compel the government of Bashar al Assad to halt the slaughter of the Syrian people and work toward a democratic government.	H.R.1677	05-18-17	Eliot L. Engel	D
121	Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000	Directs the President to report periodically to specified congressional committees on foreign persons who, on or after January 1, 1999, have transferred to Iran: (1) controlled goods, services, or technology; or (2) non-controlled goods, services, or technology that nevertheless would be, if they were U.S. goods, services, or technology, prohibited for export to Iran because of their potential to make a material contribution to the development of nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons, or ballistic or cruise missile systems. Excludes from identification in such reports any such persons who were previously identified, or who have acted on behalf of, or in concert with, the U.S. Government.	H.R.1883	03-14-00	Benjamin A. Gilman	R
122	Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996	Urges the President to commence diplomatic efforts with U.S. allies to establish multilateral trade sanctions against Iran and Libya, including limiting its development of petroleum resources, in order to end	H.R.3107	08-05-69	Benjamin A. Gilman	R

		its ability to support acts of international terrorism and efforts to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction. Requires the President to report periodically to the appropriate congressional committees on the extent of the success of such efforts. Authorizes the President to waive such sanctions if certain requirements are met.				
123	SOLVE Act 2.0 of 2017	This bill states that: (1) beginning on March 6, 2017, Executive Order 13780, entitled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," is null and void, shall have no force and effect, and may not be implemented or enforced; and (2) no federal funds may be used to implement or enforce any of the policy changes set forth in such order. Among the order's major provisions are restrictions on the entry of nationals from six countries (Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen) and additional limitations on refugee admissions to the United States.	H.R.1503	03-31-17	Zoe Lofgren	D
124	To amend the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 to provide the President with additional proclamation authority with respect to articles of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone.	Amends the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 to authorize the President to proclaim the elimination or modification of any existing duty in order to exempt any article from duty if: (1) the article is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone (defined under this Act); (2) the article is imported directly from such area or zone; and (3) the sum of the materials and processing costs of such article is not	H.R.3074	10-02-96	Philip M. Crane	R

		less than 35 percent of the appraised value of such product at the time it enters into the United States.				
125	To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.	Directs the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate to arrange for the presentation of a congressional gold medal in honor of President Shimon Peres of Israel.	H.R.2939	06-09-14	Joseph P. Kennedy	D
126	Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015	This bill states that it shall be U.S. policy to: (1) prevent Hizballah's global logistics and financial network from operating in order to curtail funding of its domestic and international activities; and (2) utilize diplomatic, legislative, and executive avenues to combat Hizballah's criminal activities in order to block that organization's ability to fund its global terrorist activities.	H.R.2297	12-18-15	Edward R. Royce	R