

Lowey does not support H.Res.686

From: The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Sent By: Marin.Stein@mail.house.gov
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Dear Colleague:

As you may have seen, a recent letter to Members of Congress regarding H. Res. 686, **which I do not support**, referenced my name and a letter to the President that I recently led with Congresswoman Kay Granger. **I do not intend to cosponsor this resolution.**

First, the resolution calls on the U.S. government to articulate “a non-binding” vision of a comprehensive final status agreement between Israelis and Palestinians. This is highly concerning. The intricate details of a comprehensive final status agreement can only be negotiated between the parties themselves in order for a long-lasting solution to succeed. In fact, any U.S. ‘articulation’ on very sensitive and difficult issues risks seriously setting back negotiations rather than advancing them. It risks hardening both Palestinian and Israeli positions, making it much more difficult to get the parties back to the negotiating table.

Second, the resolution fails to specifically call on the U.S. Government to pressure the Palestinians to cease all terrorism, violence, and incitement against innocent civilians. This is a glaring omission given the recent and deplorable increase in stabbing attacks, shootings, and car rammings against innocent Israelis during the last several months and the bus bombing in Jerusalem just this week.

Lastly, I am greatly concerned that such an effort by our Administration would make it more difficult for the next Administration to advance our goals in the Middle East.

The letter I led with Kay Granger, which was signed by 394 Members of Congress, reiterates that only the parties themselves can agree to end their conflict through a negotiated resolution and that the United States must continue to resist efforts to impose a solution on the parties. In short, we should not take steps to presuppose the result of negotiations.

I have no doubt the authors of this resolution are as committed to achieving two states for two peoples as I am. However, I do not believe their approach will help achieve our shared goal. **That is why I will not cosponsor this resolution, and I discourage you from cosponsoring it.**

Sincerely,

Nita M. Lowey

Member of Congress