

OPPOSE MISGUIDED ROYCE RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL

Dear Democratic Colleague,

We write to urge your opposition to H.Res.11 as currently written. This resolution was pushed through the Rules Committee this morning under a closed rule, without even a motion to recommit, and is being hurried to the floor for a Thursday vote.

This morning, the Rules Committee rejected outright a substitute amendment designed to reach broad consensus on U.S. policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict sponsored by Congressman David Price and cosponsored by HFAC Ranking Member Eliot Engel and Congressman Gerry Connolly. No other amendments or substitutes were considered.

Though this substitute amendment was not perfect, it was a genuine, good-faith, and even-handed approach that would have eliminated the many flaws of H.Res. 11.

As written, H.Res.11 provides a partial and inaccurate account of past United States actions on United Nations (UN) resolutions related to Israel. It also makes reckless and baseless charges as to the intent and effects of the recent UN Security Council vote.

There is a legitimate debate to be had concerning UN Security Council Resolution 2334 and the United States' decision to abstain; we ourselves have differences of opinion on that question. But H.Res.11 does not engage on these issues, choosing rather to taint motives and distort the content of the UN Security Council resolution.

H.Res.11 undermines and casts aside decades of bipartisan American policy. It is not the way to show steadfast support for our ally Israel and it does nothing to secure Israel's future as a secure, democratic, and Jewish state through a sustainable two-state solution.

Members should instead work to affirm and strengthen longstanding United States policy toward Israel, work to foster conditions to progress peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, and keep alive the vision of two states for two peoples as articulated by Secretary Kerry on December 28, 2016.

At best, H.Res.11 would muddy the waters of our diplomacy and foreign policy. At worst, it could undermine our decades-long efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

We urge you to join us in opposing the misguided Royce resolution, H.Res.11.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett, Member of Congress
David E. Price, Member of Congress
Gerald E. Connolly, Member of Congress
Peter Welch, Member of Congress
Earl Blumenauer, Member of Congress
Barbara Lee, Member of Congress
John Yarmuth, Member of Congress