

One Hundred Sixteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

February 26, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

We urge you to bring S. 1, the Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019, to the House Floor for consideration prior to the March district work period.

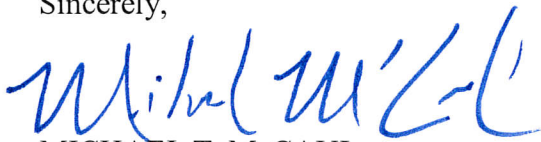
As you know, S.1 passed the Senate with a robust bipartisan vote of 77-23, including support from Minority Leader Schumer, on February 5, 2019. This legislation contains four important measures to advance U.S. national interests in the Middle East. Specifically, it includes: the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Act, which authorizes security assistance to Israel for 10 years and updates the U.S. security partnership with Israel; the U.S.-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act, which extends Jordan's eligibility to receive special treatment for transfer of U.S. defense articles and services; the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, which creates new tools to sanction those who provide significant financial, material, or technological support to the Assad regime's war against the Syrian people; and the Combating Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Act, which allows state and local governments to adopt laws to divest public funds from entities that boycott Israel. Three of these passed the House by voice vote as standalone measures in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, and the fourth has broad bipartisan support.

You recently called for a U.S. Syria policy that "keeps America safe, protects our interests and advances peace in the region." As the Assad regime further consolidates its brutal grip on Syria, it is urgent that Congress take steps to make such a Syria policy a reality. Passing S. 1 into law shows that the United States has no tolerance for those that enable the Assad regime, during the war or after. S. 1 also expresses Congressional concerns regarding a precipitous withdrawal from Syria and Afghanistan, a view shared by Congressional leaders from both parties. S.1 will ensure that our allies Jordan and Israel are equipped and ready to defend our shared interests, with the full backing of the United States, as adversaries such as Syria, Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah look to reshape the region.

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Madam Speaker, the fastest way to assure these long-overdue measures become law is to consider and pass S.1 as soon as possible. By bringing them to the Floor, you can ensure our allies get the support they need, and that the Assad regime and its murderous backers are held accountable for their heinous crimes. We ask that you follow the Senate's bipartisan lead and allow the House to vote on these urgent foreign policy priorities.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL T. McCAUL  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Foreign Affairs



PATRICK McHENRY  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Financial Services

cc: The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Eliot L. Engel  
The Honorable Maxine Waters