The U.S.-Israel relationship is a mutually beneficial partnership that reinforces America’s moral values and strategic interests. This relationship with the only democracy in the Middle East is a key pillar of America’s regional security framework. The U.S.-Israel partnership is constantly growing and expanding into new areas, including science, technology, health, energy, agriculture, homeland security and defense.

Today, some have proposed reducing our ties with Israel because they object to the potential decision by Israel’s leaders to extend Israeli sovereignty to parts of the West Bank. Doing anything to weaken this vital relationship would be a mistake.

As the Middle East is swept by the most dramatic upheavals in decades, Israel is the one stable, democratic ally upon which America can consistently depend. Israel’s military strength and central geostrategic location provide a strong deterrent to regional actors opposed to the United States. Moreover, Israel’s capabilities in designing advanced military, homeland security, counterterrorism and cyber-protection technologies help the United States meet our growing security challenges.

The United States and Israel share interests in deterring war, promoting stability and creating lasting peace. These goals are achievable only if the United States continues to help ensure Israel’s qualitative military edge—the ability to counter and defeat any credible conventional military threat while sustaining minimal damages and casualties. American support for Israel promotes peace and helps deter regional conflict by making clear to potential foes that they cannot defeat the Jewish state.

A strong U.S.-Israel relationship is essential for achieving a genuine peace between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbors, including the Palestinians. A viable two-state agreement is only attainable if America’s support for Israel is ironclad, and the Jewish state knows it can take risks for peace because its ally and partner has its back.

Despite the increasingly close ties between the two allies, it is inevitable that there will be areas of political or policy disagreement between leaders on both sides—as there are between America and all our allies.

However, bipartisan support for the fundamentals of the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship must supersede any policy dispute. This is important for not only Israel’s security but for America’s as well. Indeed, America is more secure when Israel is strong.