



Middle East Spotlight

Legislative Impact: Make your Voice Heard

January is not only the start of the New Year and the time for making resolutions, but it is also the inauguration of the 114th Congress. As elected representatives of the American public, members of Congress serve a unique role in transforming our advocacy into policy. Thus, we in the Jewish community have a special obligation to educate our policy makers and help them better understand the importance of a robust U.S.-Israel relationship.

Across the country, pro-Israel activists have worked to ensure that every newly elected member understands the issues that matter most for the U.S.-Israel relationship—notably the foremost threat of a nuclear-capable Iran. We must be the ones to remind members of Congress that U.S. support for Israel is not just an act of friendship; it is an act of national self-interest.

Congress has traditionally supported a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, but that support is not a given. It requires the pro-Israel community—individuals who care about the future of America and the Jewish state—to constantly educate policymakers about the issues most important to us.

Throughout the past year, members of Congress played a vital role in framing the contours of an acceptable final agreement with Iran. Both the Senate and the House advanced legislation that spelled out the consequences for the Islamic Republic if it violated interim deals or rebuffed a verifiable final pact.

When it came to Iran's nuclear quest and the issues that mattered most to the security of America and Israel, it was the persistent work of citizen activists building relationships with their elected leaders in Washington that helped keep these policy imperatives in focus.

Each of us has the opportunity to do this important work. And every March, we have the chance to join together and amplify our message as a community at the AIPAC Policy Conference. Together, we can exercise our right as American citizens to work with our legislators in Washington toward a world free of a nuclear capable Iran, a stronger America and a more secure Israel.

As you ponder the things you might improve upon this year, please consider how you can help strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. Consider getting involved in pro-Israel political activism. In doing so, we can all help make a difference for our country, our ally and ourselves.