

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 221

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. ZELDIN, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. GRANGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Special Envoy to Mon-
5 itor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7 Congress finds that since the Global Anti-Semitism
8 Review Act of 2004 was enacted, in many foreign coun-
9 tries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide

1 in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish
2 communities and their institutions have proliferated, and
3 in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in
4 frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

5 **SEC. 3. MONITORING AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 59 of the
7 State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22
8 U.S.C. 2731) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (i) by inserting before the period at
12 the end the following: “, who shall be ap-
13 pointed by the President, by and with the
14 advice and consent of the Senate”; and

15 (ii) by adding at the end the following
16 new sentence: “The Special Envoy shall re-
17 port directly to the Secretary.”; and

18 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

19 (i) in the heading, by striking “AP-
20 POINTMENT” and inserting “NOMINA-
21 TION”;

22 (ii) by striking the first sentence;

23 (iii) in the second sentence, by strik-
24 ing “If the Secretary determines that such
25 is appropriate, the Secretary may appoint”

1 and inserting “If the President determines
2 that such is appropriate, the President
3 may nominate”; and

4 (iv) in the third sentence, by striking
5 “The Secretary may allow such officer or
6 employee to retain the position (and the
7 responsibilities associated with such posi-
8 tion) held by such officer or employee prior
9 to the appointment” and inserting “Such
10 officer or employee may not retain the po-
11 sition (or the responsibilities associated
12 with such position) held by such officer or
13 employee prior to the nomination”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraphs:

16 “(3) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall serve
17 as the primary advisor to, and coordinate efforts
18 across, the United States Government relating to
19 monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-
20 Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.

21 “(4) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—
22 The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambas-
23 sador.

1 “(5) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy
2 should be a person of recognized distinction in the
3 field of—

4 “(A) combating anti-Semitism;

5 “(B) religious freedom; or

6 “(C) law enforcement.”.

7 (b) NOMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 120
9 after any such position becomes vacant, the President
10 shall nominate the Special Envoy for Monitoring and
11 Combating anti-Semitism under section 59 of the State
12 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended
13 by subsection (a) of this section.

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