

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4310, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. CONAWAY OF TEXAS**

At the end of subtitle C of title XII of the bill, insert
the following:

1 **SEC. 12xx. ENHANCING THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL AND**
2 **UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE**
3 **EAST.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the United States should take the following ac-
6 tions to assist in the defense of Israel:

7 (1) Provide Israel such support as may be nec-
8 essary to increase development and production of
9 joint missile defense systems, particularly such sys-
10 tems that defend the urgent threat posed to Israel
11 and United States forces in the region.

12 (2) Provide Israel defense articles, intelligence,
13 and defense services through such mechanisms as
14 appropriate, to include air refueling tankers, missile
15 defense capabilities, and specialized munitions.

16 (3) Allocate additional weaponry and munitions
17 for the forward-deployed United States stockpile in
18 Israel.

1 (4) Provide Israel additional surplus defense ar-
2 ticles and defense services, as appropriate, in the
3 wake of the withdrawal of United States forces from
4 Iraq.

5 (5) Offer the Israeli Air Force additional train-
6 ing and exercise opportunities in the United States
7 to compensate for Israel's limited air space.

8 (6) Expand Israel's authority to make pur-
9 chases under section 23 of the Arms Export Control
10 Act (relating to the "Foreign Military Financing"
11 program) on a commercial basis.

12 (7) Seek to enhance the capabilities of the
13 United States and Israel to address emerging com-
14 mon threats, increase security cooperation, and ex-
15 pand joint military exercises.

16 (8) Encourage an expanded role for Israel with-
17 in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),
18 including an enhanced presence at NATO head-
19 quarters and exercises.

20 (9) Support extension of the long-standing loan
21 guarantee program for Israel, recognizing Israel's
22 unbroken record of repaying its loans on time and
23 in full.

24 (10) Expand already-close intelligence coopera-
25 tion, including satellite intelligence, with Israel.

1 (b) REPORT ON ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY
2 EDGE.—

3 (1) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of
4 the United States—

5 (A) to help Israel preserve its qualitative
6 military edge amid rapid and uncertain regional
7 political transformation; and

8 (B) to encourage further development of
9 advanced technology programs between the
10 United States and Israel in light of current
11 trends and instability in the region.

12 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
14 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees a report on the status of Israel's qualitative
16 military edge in light of current trends and insta-
17 bility in the region.

18 (c) REPORT ON OTHER MATTERS.—Not later than
19 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
20 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
21 committees a report on each of the following:

22 (1) Taking into account Israel's urgent require-
23 ment for F-35 aircraft, actions to improve the proc-
24 ess relating to Israel's purchase of F-35 aircraft to
25 improve cost efficiency and timely delivery.

1 (2) Efforts to expand cooperation between the
2 United States and Israel in homeland defense,
3 counter-terrorism, maritime security, cybersecurity,
4 and other appropriate areas.

5 (3) Actions to integrate Israel into the defense
6 of the Eastern Mediterranean.

7 **SEC. 12xx. PLAN TO ENHANCE MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF**
8 **PERSIAN GULF ALLIES.**

9 (a) PLAN.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation
10 with the Secretary of State, shall develop a plan to en-
11 hance the military capabilities of Persian Gulf allies to bol-
12 ster the posture of such allies in relation to Iran.

13 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The plan required
14 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

15 (1) A description of the means to augment the
16 offensive strike capabilities of key Gulf Cooperation
17 Council allies, including the potential sale or up-
18 grades of strike attack aircraft and bunker buster
19 munitions, to augment the viability of a credible
20 military option and to strengthen such allies' self-de-
21 fense capabilities against retaliation or military ag-
22 gression by Iran.

23 (2) A needs-based assessment, or an update to
24 an existing needs-based assessment, of the military
25 requirements of Persian Gulf allies to support a

1 credible military option and to defend against poten-
2 tial military aggression by Iran.

3 (3) A detailed summary of any arms sales and
4 training requests by Persian Gulf allies and a de-
5 scription and justification for United States actions
6 taken.

7 (c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the plan
8 required under subsection (a) shall be construed to alter
9 Israel’s qualitative military edge.

10 (d) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—The plan required
11 under subsection (a) shall be submitted to the appropriate
12 congressional committees not later than 180 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (e) **FORM.**—The plan required under subsection (a)
15 shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may con-
16 tain a classified annex.

17 **SEC. 12xx. PLAN TO INCREASE STRATEGIC REGIONAL**
18 **PARTNERSHIPS.**

19 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

20 (1) The United States should ensure that it has
21 the broadest set of geographic approaches to mili-
22 tarily access Iran.

23 (2) United States Armed Forces and support
24 staff currently have access from the eastern, south-
25 ern, and western borders of Iran.

1 (3) Azerbaijan borders the northern frontier of
2 Iran closest to nuclear sites near Tehran and the
3 Government of Azerbaijan cooperates with the
4 United States on Caspian Sea security and energy
5 issues.

6 (b) POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United
7 States to—

8 (1) increase pressure on Iran by providing
9 United States Armed Forces with the broadest set
10 of geographic approaches to militarily access Iran;
11 and

12 (2) explore means to enhance access to military
13 facilities on the northern border of Iran.

14 (c) PLAN.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in
16 consultation with the Secretary of State, shall de-
17 velop a plan to increase the strategic partnership
18 with regional allies to provide United States Armed
19 Forces with the broadest set of geographic ap-
20 proaches to militarily access Iran.

21 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The plan re-
22 quired under paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
23 lowing information:

24 (A) Mechanisms to broaden the geo-
25 graphical approaches to militarily access Iran.

1 (B) The need, if any, to strengthen the
2 self-defense capabilities of regional allies as a
3 result of such partnerships.

4 (C) The viability of increasing access for
5 United States Armed Forces to bases in Azer-
6 baijan to augment the viability of a credible
7 military option.

8 (3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The plan re-
9 quired under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to
10 the appropriate congressional committees not later
11 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
12 this Act.

13 **SEC. 12xx. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this subtitle:

15 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
16 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
19 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
20 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives; and

22 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
23 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
24 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

1 (2) QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE.—The term
2 “qualitative military edge” has the meaning given
3 the term in section 36(h)(2) of the Arms Export
4 Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)(2)).

