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:

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

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should take the following actions to assist in the defense of Israel:

(1) Provide Israel such support as may be necessary to increase development and production of joint missile defense systems, particularly such systems that defend the urgent threat posed to Israel and United States forces in the region.

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

(3) Allocate additional weaponry and munitions for the forward-deployed United States stockpile in Israel.
(4) Provide Israel additional surplus defense articles and defense services, as appropriate, in the wake of the withdrawal of United States forces from Iraq.

(5) Offer the Israeli Air Force additional training and exercise opportunities in the United States to compensate for Israel’s limited air space.

(6) Expand Israel’s authority to make purchases under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (relating to the “Foreign Military Financing” program) on a commercial basis.

(7) Seek to enhance the capabilities of the United States and Israel to address emerging common threats, increase security cooperation, and expand joint military exercises.

(8) Encourage an expanded role for Israel within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), including an enhanced presence at NATO headquarters and exercises.

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

(10) Expand already-close intelligence cooperation, including satellite intelligence, with Israel.
(b) Report on Israel’s Qualitative Military Edge.—

1. Statement of policy.—It is the policy of the United States—

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

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

2. Report.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of Israel’s qualitative military edge in light of current trends and instability in the region.

(c) Report on Other Matters.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each of the following:

   1. Taking into account Israel’s urgent requirement for F–35 aircraft, actions to improve the process relating to Israel’s purchase of F–35 aircraft to improve cost efficiency and timely delivery.
(2) Efforts to expand cooperation between the United States and Israel in homeland defense, counter-terrorism, maritime security, cybersecurity, and other appropriate areas.

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

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

(a) Plan.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall develop a plan to enhance the military capabilities of Persian Gulf allies to bolster the posture of such allies in relation to Iran.

(b) Matters to be included.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the means to augment the offensive strike capabilities of key Gulf Cooperation Council allies, including the potential sale or upgrades of strike attack aircraft and bunker buster munitions, to augment the viability of a credible military option and to strengthen such allies’ self-defense capabilities against retaliation or military aggression by Iran.

(2) A needs-based assessment, or an update to an existing needs-based assessment, of the military requirements of Persian Gulf allies to support a
credible military option and to defend against potential military aggression by Iran.

(3) A detailed summary of any arms sales and training requests by Persian Gulf allies and a description and justification for United States actions taken.

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

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

(e) FORM.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 12xx. PLAN TO INCREASE STRATEGIC REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States should ensure that it has the broadest set of geographic approaches to militarily access Iran.

(2) United States Armed Forces and support staff currently have access from the eastern, southern, and western borders of Iran.
(3) Azerbaijan borders the northern frontier of Iran closest to nuclear sites near Tehran and the Government of Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States on Caspian Sea security and energy issues.

(b) **Policy.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to—

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

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

(e) **Plan.**—

(1) **In General.**—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall develop a plan to increase the strategic partnership with regional allies to provide United States Armed Forces with the broadest set of geographic approaches to militarily access Iran.

(2) **Matters to Be Included.**—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include the following information:

(A) Mechanisms to broaden the geographical approaches to militarily access Iran.
(B) The need, if any, to strengthen the self-defense capabilities of regional allies as a result of such partnerships.

(C) The viability of increasing access for United States Armed Forces to bases in Azerbaijan to augment the viability of a credible military option.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 12xx. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.
(2) QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE.—The term “qualitative military edge” has the meaning given the term in section 36(h)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)(2)).