

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1911

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

APRIL 5, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BILL-RAKIS, and Mr. VEASEY) 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 of 2017”.

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 Subsection (a) of section 59 of the State Department
7 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2731) is amend-
8 ed—

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) by striking the first sentence; and

20 (ii) in the third sentence, by striking
21 “The Secretary may allow such officer or
22 employee to retain the position (and the
23 responsibilities associated with such posi-
24 tion)” and inserting “Such officer or em-
25 ployee may not retain the position (or the

1 responsibilities associated with such posi-
2 tion)”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraphs:

5 “(3) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall serve
6 as the primary advisor to, and coordinate efforts
7 across, the United States Government relating to
8 monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-
9 Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.

10 “(4) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—
11 The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambas-
12 sador.

13 “(5) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy
14 should be a person of recognized distinction in the
15 field of—

16 “(A) combating anti-Semitism; or

17 “(B) religious freedom.”.

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