

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1292

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2017

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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
10 in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish

1 communities and their institutions have proliferated, and
 2 in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in
 3 frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

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

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

8 (1) in paragraph (2)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

17 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

18 (i) by striking the first sentence; and

19 (ii) in the third sentence, by striking
 20 “The Secretary may allow such officer or
 21 employee to retain the position (and the
 22 responsibilities associated with such posi-
 23 tion)” and inserting “Such officer or em-
 24 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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