

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3209

To require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the educational material used by the Palestinian Authority in schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Mr. KENNEDY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the educational material used by the Palestinian Authority in schools, 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 “Peace and Tolerance
5 in Palestinian Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 2016 and 2017, the Palestinian Author-
2 ity published modified curricula for school-aged chil-
3 dren in grades 1 through 11.

4 (2) Textbooks used by the Palestinian Author-
5 ity in the West Bank and Gaza include graphics por-
6 traying violence against Israeli soldiers, positive por-
7 trayals of individuals who have committed attacks
8 against citizens of Israel, and references to Pales-
9 tinian efforts to target the “Zionists”.

10 (3) Palestinian Authority textbooks are used at
11 schools sponsored by the United Nations Relief and
12 Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near
13 East because the schools use the textbooks of the
14 host government.

15 (4) On April 26, 2018, the Government Ac-
16 countability Office published a report that found the
17 following:

18 (A) Textbooks in schools in areas con-
19 trolled by the Palestinian Authority feature in-
20 accurate and misleading maps of the region and
21 include militaristic, adversarial imagery and
22 content that incite hatred.

23 (B) The Department of State raised with
24 Palestinian officials the objectionable content in
25 the textbooks, including a specific math prob-

1 lem using the number of Palestinian casualties
2 in the First and Second Intifadas.

3 (C) The United Nations Relief and Works
4 Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near
5 East, in its review of the textbooks, identified
6 content not aligned with United Nations values,
7 the majority of which content related to neu-
8 trality or bias issues, including issues related to
9 maps and references to Jerusalem as the cap-
10 ital of Palestine.

11 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

12 It is the sense of Congress that the Palestinian Au-
13 thority has not sufficiently eliminated content encouraging
14 violence or intolerance toward other countries or ethnic
15 groups from the curriculum used in schools in areas con-
16 trolled by the Palestinian Authority.

17 **SEC. 4. REPORTS REQUIRED.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
20 for 2 years in accordance with subsection (c), the Sec-
21 retary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign
22 Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign
23 Affairs of the House of Representatives a report reviewing
24 curriculum used in schools in areas controlled by the Pal-

1 estinian Authority or located in Gaza and controlled by
2 any other entity.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection
4 (a) shall include the following:

5 (1) A determination of whether the curriculum
6 reviewed contains content encouraging violence or in-
7 tolerance toward other countries or ethnic groups,
8 and a detailed explanation of the reasons for reach-
9 ing such determination.

10 (2) An assessment of the steps the Palestinian
11 Authority is taking to reform curriculum containing
12 such content at schools to conform with standards of
13 peace and tolerance in the Declaration of Principles
14 on Tolerance adopted by Member States of the
15 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
16 Organization on November 16, 1995.

17 (3) A determination of whether United States
18 foreign assistance is used, directly or indirectly, to
19 fund the dissemination of such curriculum by the
20 Palestinian Authority.

21 (4) A detailed report on how United States as-
22 sistance is being used to address curriculum that en-
23 courages violence or intolerance toward other nations
24 or ethnic groups.

1 (5) A detailed report on United States diplo-
2 matic efforts, during the 5-year period preceding the
3 date on which the report is submitted, to encourage
4 peace and tolerance in Palestinian education.

5 (6) If any diplomatic efforts referred to in para-
6 graph (5) were stopped by the Secretary of State,
7 the reasons for such stoppages.

8 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of State
9 shall post on a publicly available website of the Depart-
10 ment of State each report required by subsection (a).

11 (d) SUBSEQUENT DEADLINES.—Each report re-
12 quired by subsection (a), other than the first such report,
13 shall be submitted not later than 90 days after the date
14 on which a new school year begins for schools in areas
15 controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

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