

(WASHINGTON) --- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) spoke today on the floor of the House of Representatives in support of H. Res. 268, a resolution reaffirming the United States' commitment to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. H. Res. 268 was authored by Majority Leader Eric Cantor and Congressman West cosponsored this resolution on June 13, 2011. Congressman West stated during the debate:

"It is important that America stand with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. It is unacceptable to expect Israel to pursue peace with any group that refuses to accept Israel's right to exist. America should support the peace process if only the following:

- The Palestinian Government will seek peace with Israel

- Palestinian leaders cease all efforts at circumventing the negotiation process, including through a unilateral declaration of statehood or by seeking recognition of a Palestinian state from other nations or the United Nations

- Palestinian leaders take appropriate measures to counter incitement to violence and fulfill all prior Palestinian commitments, including dismantling the terrorist infrastructure embodied in Hamas

Israel is a bright and shining beacon in the Middle East and Palestinian leaders can choose to be a part of this light or remain in darkness."

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