

PETE SESSIONS

32ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

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FINANCIAL SERVICES
(ON LEAVE)**

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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

February 23, 2004

Support Middle East Peace and Security

Dear Colleague:

The recent acts of terrorism in the Middle East remind us of the need to take an uncompromising stand against terrorists, wherever they try to undermine peace and stability. Prior to the resumption of terrorist attacks in 2000, Israel and the Palestinians had begun to take important steps to restart the peace process. Congress must make it clear that only a sustained fight against terrorism can enable the peace process to move forward.

In order to aid the peace process, I have introduced H.R. 3814, The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Enhancement Act of 2004. This legislation provides important support to the peace process in several key ways:

- It expresses Congress' expectation that the Palestinian authority must meet strict conditions before a Palestinian state is recognized, including: an elected leadership vigorously attempting to prevent terrorism; a firm commitment to peace with Israel; the dismantling of terrorist infrastructures in the West Bank and Gaza; sustained security cooperation with Israel; and an end to anti-Israel incitement.
- It provides concrete, positive incentives for the Palestinians to achieve the reforms called for by President Bush and to achieve a negotiated peace with Israel. The incentives include U.S. assistance and a commitment to organize international assistance for the new state once it has been recognized by the United States and Israel – which can only occur in the absence of terrorism.

Senator John Ensign (R-NV) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) have introduced companion legislation in the Senate. H.R. 3814 contains strong expressions of Congress' support for the vision of two states living side-by-side in peace and security, provided that Palestine meets the conditions put forth in the bill. Until the Palestinian leadership proves that it is committed to eliminating the terrorist infrastructure, that it is serious about making peace with Israel, and that it supports the coexistence of both states, peace will not be a reality.

If we fail to confront those who threaten freedom and democracy, terrorism will continue to thrive across the globe. This bill represents a positive, forward-looking approach to helping Israel and the Palestinians eliminate terrorism and fulfill the vision of two states living side-by-side in peace and security, as outlined by President Bush.

I hope that you will join me in supporting this legislation. Please call Josh Saltzman on my staff (5.2231) if you have any questions or wish to cosponsor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P Sessions", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

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