

The Ceasefire Compliance Act

Representative Sean Casten (D-IL-06)

What This Bill Would Do

This bill would ban the use of US-origin weapons in Gaza and the West Bank if Israel violates the ceasefire agreement and 20-point plan, annexes the West Bank, or fails to combat settler violence against Palestinians. The bill creates an end-use monitoring group and congressional oversight mechanisms to enforce this ban while exempting defensive missile systems such as Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 3, and maintaining US support for Israel's security.

Why This Bill and Why Now

Enforcing the ceasefire: This bill is critical to increase pressure to enforce the ceasefire, given the multitude of threats to it, including:

- Ongoing Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire in Gaza, which have killed over 600 Palestinians since the ceasefire began.
- Restrictions on the flow of humanitarian aid.
- Political and practical obstacles to establishing the governance and security arrangements envisioned for Phase Two, which are necessary to keep the ceasefire durable and prevent a return to hostilities.

Implementing the second phase of the ceasefire will require intense and sustained pressure on all actors. While other US allies such as Qatar and Turkey can place pressure on Hamas, only the United States can ensure Israel adheres to its obligations under the ceasefire agreement and moves forward with the 20-point plan.

Supporting Israel's security: By focusing on a ban of US arms in the Palestinian territories as an accountability mechanism for ceasefire compliance, this bill maintains support for Israel's self-defense against legitimate security threats from Iran, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Iran-backed militias in Iraq and Syria.

Security Safeguards: Nothing in this bill prevents Israel from defending itself, or the United States from assisting Israel in the event of another tragic attack. The bill includes explicit language that:

- Does not limit funds for air defense systems, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow 3.
- Does not prevent the United States from sharing intelligence or assisting Israel in defensive measures, including missile defense maintenance/resupply.

- Does not prevent the United States from assisting Israel in protecting its territory from terrorist and other external threats.

Protecting the West Bank: Conditions in the West Bank have deteriorated severely in the past few years.

- The Israeli government has failed to act against a massive escalation of settler attacks, despite the killings of Palestinian civilians, including American citizens.
- Members of the Israeli government continue to pursue de facto and de jure annexation of the West Bank through both legal measures and settlement expansion.
- Policies such as advancing construction plans in the E-1 corridor and changes to land administration and registration policies risk further fragmenting the territory and undermining the viability of a future Palestinian state.

This bill also strengthens Israel's security by discouraging policies that lead to repeated cycles of war. Mass civilian casualties, humanitarian crises, and unchecked settler violence in the West Bank are moral stains on humanity and make Israel less safe and secure. Coupled with the Israeli government's policies and acts of de facto or de jure annexation of the West Bank, Israel's conduct in Gaza and the West Bank has fueled resentment and militancy, damaged Israel's international standing, complicated prospects for expanding the Abraham Accords, and perpetuated a cycle of violence that harms Palestinians and Israelis. This bill seeks to incentivize policy changes that would reverse these damaging trends and recognizes that issues in the West Bank and Gaza are inextricably linked and must be addressed in tandem.

Ending the blank check: This bill redefines the system of US military aid to Israel, transforming it from a blank check to an accountability-based system that advances US strategic interests in the Middle East, aligns with American values, enhances Israel's security, and protects Palestinian civilians. Through thorough oversight and tough enforcement mechanisms, it makes clear that actions undermining shared U.S. and Israeli interests and values will have consequences.