



Joint Statement from JCRC-NY, JCRC-LI, and WJC on Israeli President Isaac Herzog's Special Address to Congress

On behalf of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY), the Jewish Community Relations Council of Long Island (JCRC-LI), and the Westchester Jewish Council (WJC), we express our sincere appreciation to our Congressional Delegation members for demonstrating their support for the 75-year relationship between the United States and Israel by supporting H. Con. Res. 57 "Expressing the sense of Congress supporting the State of Israel," (412-9-1) and for attending Israeli President Isaac Herzog's special address to a joint session of Congress.

We are fortunate that our local Congressional Delegation is led by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who have been consistent in their unwavering support of the unbreakable bond between the US and Israel. Their strong, steadfast, and bipartisan commitment to strengthening that vital relationship is shared by US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and House Members: Yvette Clarke, Anthony D'Esposito, Adriano Espaillat, Andrew Garbarino, Daniel Goldman, Nick LaLota, Michael Lawler, Nicole Malliotakis, Gregory Meeks, Grace Meng, Jerrold Nadler, and Ritchie Torres. Their support for the resolution and attendance at President Herzog's address is emblematic of their commitment to ensuring the security of Israel and our shared democratic values.

The Jewish community of New York is deeply grateful for the friendship of our Senators and of the overwhelming number of Members of our House delegation who have consistently reaffirmed the time honored link between our country and Israel.

We are deeply disappointed that Reps. Jamaal Bowman and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez chose to oppose this resolution supporting the State of Israel and to boycott this historic speech by the President of Israel, who holds a non-political role as the Head of State. We are also disappointed by the inconsistent and irreconcilable decisions of Rep. Nydia Velazquez to support the resolution and boycott President Herzog's speech. The choices by these Representatives stand in stark contrast to the beliefs and attitudes of many of their own constituents, who, like the vast majority of Americans, understand that Israel is a strong friend and ally of the United States.

As President Joe Biden recently stated, "This is a friendship that I believe is simply unbreakable...., America's commitment to Israel is firm. And it is ironclad." This sentiment was echoed earlier today by President Herzog in his address to Congress stating, "To us, it is clear that America is irreplaceable to Israel, and Israel is irreplaceable to America."

See below for links to the video and transcript of President Herzog's Speech to Congress.



