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A New Policy Quicksheet

Joint Resolution of Disapproval on sale of munitions and firearms to Israel

JRDs and Underlying Sales:

- **S.J.Res.34** (Sanders) – To prohibit the U.S.-taxpayer financed \$675.7 million sale of (201) MK 83 MOD 4/MOD 5 General Purpose 1,000-pound bomb bodies; four thousand seven hundred ninety-nine (4,799) BLU-110A/B General Purpose 1,000-pound bomb bodies; one thousand five hundred (1,500) KMU-559C/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) guidance kits for the MK 83 bomb body; three thousand five hundred (3,500) KMU-559J/B JDAM guidance kits for the MK 83 bomb body; as well as other related logistics and technical support services. (Transmittal No. 25-26)
- **S.J.Res.41** (Sanders)– To prohibit the sale of 20,000 Colt Carbine, 11.5” barrel length, 5.56mm caliber fully automatic carbine rifles. (Transmittal No. 23-077)

Explanation:

- Fragments of 1,000lb bombs and JDAMs have been found at the location of multiple Israeli strikes in Gaza, ranging from strikes in October 2023 that [Amnesty International identified](#) as killing 43 civilians, to a strike as [recently as this month](#) that struck a crowded cafe from which multiple journalists were working.
- In addition to reports from Gaza regarding the shooting of unarmed civilians by the IDF and U.S. contractors, firearms in the hands of Israeli security forces have also been involved in multiple gross violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, in the West Bank - to include in the murder of American civilians.

Process: Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (JRDs) are the only immediate mechanism available to Congress to block the sale of weapons to a foreign country once it has been notified to Congress. Under the law, JRDs are eligible for expedited procedures, meaning that once introduced and after they have sat before the Committee of jurisdiction, they

may be called up to the Senate floor for a vote by their sponsor with or without the support of the Senate leadership.

Previous votes: On November 20, 2024, the Senate failed to advance two JRDs introduced by Senator Sanders (D-VT) to block sales of 50,400 M933A1 120mm High Explosive mortar cartridges with M783 fuzes; and, Joint Direct Attack Munition variants and Small Diameter Bomb Increment I variants, by votes of 19-78 and 17-80, respectively. On April 3 2025, the Senate failed to advance two JRDs by Senator Sanders (D-VT) opposing the sale to Israel of thousands of JDAMs, SDBs, and munitions; and of over 35,000 2,000lb bombs, by votes of 15-83 and 15-82, respectively.

Political Note: The continued transfer of lethal weapons to Israel is opposed by an overwhelming majority of Democratic voters and a growing number of Republican voters, yet the Democratic Party has failed to demonstrate a majority of its elected Senators oppose such transfers when it comes to a JRD vote – while no Republican Senator has ever voted to oppose such sales via a JRD. Particularly for the Democrats, this vote is a vital opportunity to show that it is responsive to the clear will of its electorate – or alternatively, that nothing has changed since Kamala Harris rode a message of ‘no change from Biden’ to failure in the 2024 Presidential election even as thousands more have been killed in Gaza and millions face starvation.

Coming in a week in which almost every Democratic Senator has issued or signed on to either a Statement or a Letter regarding the horrendous humanitarian situation in Gaza, this is an opportunity for those Senators to demonstrate that their actions match their words, and to block the arms transfers that are enabling Israel’s policies of forced displacement and starvation.

References:

[S.J.Res.34 - A New Policy’s Legislative Analysis](#)

[S.J.Res.41 - Background](#)

[Democratic Ranking Members’ Statement on Gaza](#)

[Democratic Senators’ Letter on Gaza to Rubio & Witkoff](#)

[Democratic Senators’ Letter on GHF to Rubio](#)

[Independent Senator Angus King statement on Israel and Gaza](#)