

"If history has taught us anything, it is that weakness emboldens evil and rogue dictators grow strong when appeased. The American people have learned at a great price that peace is secured through strength. Throughout the world, the United States has stood as a beacon of freedom and hope, and I am confident we will remain so."

--Congressman Mike Pence

Throughout my time in Congress, including years spent as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I have sought to ensure that the United States continues to stand for freedom on the world stage. The United States should never apologize to our enemies for who we are and what we stand for. Extending a hand of cooperation to our enemies while pushing aside the concerns and interests of our allies will only endanger the United States and our interests abroad. Few examples of this have become clearer than in the case of our most cherished ally, Israel.

The alliance between the United States and Israel has deep and enduring roots. Both nations believe in fundamental human rights - freedom of speech, assembly and dissent. We share values rooted in the rich soil of Judeo-Christian civilization. In the wake of the Sept. 11th attacks, we were comforted to see Israelis cry along with us, lower their flag and declare a day of mourning as we buried our dead. Israel has been under threat since its inception, and the Israeli people understood very well what had happened to America on that day.

One of the most direct threats to Israel comes from the leader of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. While publicly denying the Holocaust, repeatedly calling for the destruction of Israel and the United States, Ahmadinejad has continued to pursue weapons of mass destruction. That is why I was proud to support and serve on the conference committee for the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010, which was signed into law in 2010.

The history of the world is filled with telling moments regarding the character of a people. Sometimes we are witness to mankind's great inhumanities, and other times we are provided with an opportunity to help those truly in dire need. To whom much is given, much is expected, and I believe the United States has a moral obligation to lead the world in confronting the pandemic of HIV-AIDS. The dimensions of this crisis are truly staggering. HIV-AIDS has infected more than 60 million people worldwide and has killed more than 25 million. That is why

I supported the Global AIDS bill, formerly titled PEPFAR, that addresses the crisis by providing medicine and health care to those in need.

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