



**AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS**  
**LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING:**  
**H.R. 7148**  
***“THE BUNKER BUSTER ACT”***  
**APRIL 2022**

[www.ajcongress.org](http://www.ajcongress.org)  
[leadership@ajcongress.org](mailto:leadership@ajcongress.org)  
191 Montauk Highway, Southampton, Water Mill, NY. 11976



# Simply Put

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Representative Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-5), along with Representative Brian Mast (R-FL-18), introduced “The Bunker Buster Act” (H.R. 7148) - a measure to provide Israel with the tools and equipment necessary to defend itself against attacks stemming from Iran and its proxies.

The Bunker Buster Act aims to successfully restore Israel’s Quantitative Military Edge (QME) and deter future ambitions of unprovoked, unjustified, and unwarranted assaults on the Jewish Homeland. In summary, the legislation authorizes the President of the United States and the Defense Apparatus to equip Israeli entities with bunker-buster munitions. These tools are designed to penetrate the earth’s surface and explode underground. While the IDF has used this ordnance for some time, the Bunker Buster Act furthers this resolve and permits the transfer of the Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP). As Iran continues to build fortified underground facilities under the auspices of its dangerous nuclear program, the use of bunker-buster munitions (including the MOP) will further enable Israel to thwart Iranian threats. Furthermore, It will allow Israel to substantially counter attempts of violence laid out by Tehran’s terrorist surrogates.

# What We Think

As a leading Jewish legacy organization, our position on the defense of the Jewish Homeland is clear. We know that a secure and safe Israel is the best ingredient for a strong United States, and the Bunker Buster Act contributes to that mission. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, [the American Jewish Congress sent a letter to Capitol Hill](#), in which we advocate substantially for a measure just like this one. With the passage of the Bunker Buster Act, Israel will be better equipped to defend itself from Iranian aggression, and limit the success of those looking to destroy her democratic principles.

As the rise of antisemitic, anti-Israel sentiment continues to grow every day, ensuring that the voice of the Jewish Community is strong in support of Israel’s safety is paramount. From BDS to violent acts of terror - and even antisemitic tropes in the halls of Congress, we must be steadfast in our efforts to protect the Middle East’s one true democracy. The American Jewish Congress is proud to champion both Rep. Gottheimer and Mast’s defense of the Jewish State, and we firmly advocate for the swift and necessary passage of H.R. 7148.



# What You Need To Know

As talks to revive a nuclear agreement with Iran continue, the threat to Israel and its partners in the fight against terror is more severe than ever. Iran's leverage in these negotiations continues to grow, especially as commodities in global markets become more scarce. For these reasons, we need to ensure that Israel has the resources to protect itself. To do this, the United States must provide the equipment for active military deterrence and enable Israel to defend its sovereignty with effects of this ordnance, should their use be required. Passage of H.R. 7148 would provide comprehensive measures to achieve these goals, by:

- **Enabling Israel to destroy Iran's underground nuclear infrastructure using the MOP - a fundamentally important advantage as tyrannical leaders in Tehran continue their attempts to reach breakout capacity.**
- **Strengthening bilateral partnerships between United States Defense manufacturers and Israeli entities.**
- **Furthering ongoing consultation between Israel and the Department of Defense (DOD) - along with establishing a reporting requirement to Congress on the state of Iranian aggression.**
- **Extending the limitations on Iran's enriched uranium.**
- **Reaffirming the United States' commitment to the Iranian nuclear development with a credible military threat.**

Israel has been firm in its request for the MOP's allowance and an additional range of guided bomb units (GBU), which are used to destroy a target and minimize collateral damage. The IDF has relied on these resources to serve at the front lines during its constant fight on terror, affording its military the ability to target and destroy underground terror- tunnel networks. During the 2021 "Guardian of Walls" operation in Gaza, the IDF used the GBU-28 to successfully target Hamas' "Metro-City" tunnels. In and of itself, this action displays a clear example of the positive benefit these resources provide and their ability to protect the security of Israel's population.

# What You Can Do

Following introduction, the bill has been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs (HFAC). At this stage, the bill will await committee members' consideration and a markup hearing to take place. A collective voice for The Bunker Buster Act is critical, and your support can make a difference. In addition to reaching out to your Member of Congress, we urge you to contact the committee leadership directly:

**Phone Number For HFAC Democratic Staff: (202) 225-5021**

**Phone Number For HFAC Republican Staff: (202) 226-8467**

**Bottom Line:** Urgent action is needed to ensure Israel is ready to protect itself. Join us in our support of H.R. 7148, and urge Congress to pass this necessary measure.

*"We must prepare for the serious threat of a nuclear-armed Iran when key provisions of the deal expire. That's why I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to defend Israel from Iran and Hezbollah and reinforce our ally's Qualitative Military Edge [QME] in the region with 'bunker buster' munitions. Iran and its terrorist proxies across the region must never be able to threaten the U.S. or Israel with a nuclear weapon."*

**– Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-5)**

*"Since the radical Islamists took over in 1979, the Iran regime's goal has been destroying the Jewish homeland, Israel. We cannot sit silent while they continue trying to wipe Israel off the map. That's why Congressman Gottheimer and I are working together to pass the Bunker Buster Act."*

**– Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL-18)**

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**





*The American Jewish Congress was founded in 1918 by leaders like Justice Louis Brandeis, Albert Einstein, Golda Meir, and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.*

*We shape the Jewish voice of tomorrow by defending Jewish interests at home and abroad through public policy advocacy, legislation, and the courts.*

[www.ajcongress.org](http://www.ajcongress.org)

[leadership@ajcongress.org](mailto:leadership@ajcongress.org)

191 Montauk Highway, Southampton, Water Mill, NY. 11976

