

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2343

To require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the educational material used by the Palestinian Authority or the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the West Bank and Gaza, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2019

Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. MAST, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. WEBER of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the educational material used by the Palestinian Authority or the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the West Bank and Gaza, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Peace and Tolerance
5 in Palestinian Education Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 2016 and 2017, the Palestinian Author-
2 ity published modified curriculums for school-aged
3 children in grades 1 through 11.

4 (2) The new Palestinian curriculums fail to
5 meet the international standards of peace and toler-
6 ance in educational materials established by the
7 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
8 Organization.

9 (3) Textbooks used by the Palestinian Author-
10 ity and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency
11 for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
12 in the West Bank and Gaza demonize Israel, encour-
13 age war, and teach children that Palestinian state-
14 hood can be achieved through violence.

15 (4) On April 26, 2018, the Government Ac-
16 countability Office published a report that found
17 that textbooks in UNRWA schools do not mention
18 Israel or Judaism, feature maps of the region that
19 exclude Israel, and include content that incites vio-
20 lence.

21 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that the Palestinian Au-
23 thority and UNRWA have not sufficiently worked to elimi-
24 nate all content and passages encouraging violence or in-

1 tolerance toward other nations or ethnic groups from the
2 curriculum used in their respective schools.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT REQUIRED.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
6 for ten years in accordance with subsection (c), the Sec-
7 retary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign
8 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
9 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report review-
10 ing curriculum used in schools controlled by the Pales-
11 tinian Authority or UNRWA in the West Bank and Gaza
12 that includes the following:

13 (1) A determination whether all content and
14 passages encouraging violence or intolerance toward
15 other nations or ethnic groups has been removed in
16 such curriculum, and a detailed explanation of the
17 reasons for reaching such determination.

18 (2) An assessment of the steps the Palestinian
19 Authority and UNRWA are taking to reform such
20 curriculum at schools to conform with standards of
21 peace and tolerance in the Declaration of Principles
22 on Tolerance by the United Nations Educational,
23 Scientific and Cultural Organization (adopted No-
24 vember 16, 1995).

1 (3) A determination whether United States for-
2 eign assistance is used, directly or indirectly, to fund
3 the dissemination of such curriculum by the Pales-
4 tinian Authority or UNRWA.

5 (b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall
6 make each report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) on
7 a publicly available website of the Department of State.

8 (c) SUBSEQUENT DEADLINES.—Each report required
9 by subsection (a), other than first, shall be submitted not
10 later than 90 days after the date on which a new school
11 year begins for schools controlled by the Palestinian Au-
12 thority or UNRWA schools in the West Bank and Gaza.

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