

## A BILL

To require the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to register as an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "AIPAC Foreign Agent Registration Enforcement Act".

### SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) The Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.) requires persons acting as agents of foreign principals in a political or quasi-political capacity to make periodic public disclosure of their relationship with the foreign principal, as well as activities, receipts, and disbursements in support of those activities.
- (2) The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) engages in lobbying activities on behalf of the interests of the Government of Israel, which may qualify it as an agent of a foreign principal under such Act.
- (3) Enforcement of registration requirements under such Act is necessary to promote transparency in foreign influence on United States policy-making.
- (4) AIPAC's predecessor, the American Zionist Council (AZC), was ordered by the U.S. Department of Justice in 1962 to register under FARA due to its financial ties to Israeli entities, but reorganized as AIPAC in 1963 to avoid registration by structuring itself as a domestic lobbying group.
- (5) AIPAC maintains close coordination with Israeli officials, including operating a Jerusalem office since 1982, funding congressional trips to Israel through its nonprofit arm, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), and aligning its lobbying efforts with Israeli government priorities, such as securing billions in U.S. military aid and opposing international scrutiny of Israeli actions.
- (6) Critics, including scholars John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, argue that AIPAC's influence distorts U.S. foreign policy in favor of Israel, as evidenced by its role in shaping decisions like increased aid packages and sanctions aligned with Israeli requests, potentially at the expense of broader American interests.
- (7) AIPAC has spent over \$100 million in recent election cycles through its political action committees and super PACs, such as the United Democracy Project, to support candidates aligned with pro-Israel policies and defeat critics, raising concerns about undisclosed foreign influence in U.S. elections.
- (8) Leaked documents from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs reveal discussions on

creating U.S.-based entities to conduct advocacy while avoiding FARA registration, highlighting efforts to circumvent transparency requirements.

(9) While AIPAC claims to be funded solely by private American donations and directed by U.S. citizens, its activities—such as promoting policies that directly benefit the Israeli government and maintaining informal ties with Israeli entities—meet FARA's definition of acting "at the order, request, or under the direction or control" of a foreign principal.

(10) Historical figures, including former Senators William Fulbright and Victor Marchetti, as well as recent public figures like Rep. Thomas Massie, have called for AIPAC to register under FARA to ensure accountability and prevent undue foreign influence on U.S. policy making.

### SECTION 3. REQUIREMENT FOR REGISTRATION.

(a) Registration Required.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) shall, not later than 3 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, register as an agent of a foreign principal under section 2 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 612).

(b) Foreign Principal Defined.—For purposes of this section, the term "foreign principal" has the meaning given such term in section 1(b) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611(b)), and shall include the Government of Israel or any entity acting on its behalf.

(c) Compliance and Reporting.—AIPAC shall comply with all disclosure, reporting, and other requirements applicable to registered agents under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, including the filing of supplemental statements under section 2(b) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 612(b)).

### SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT.

The Attorney General shall enforce the requirements of this Act, including through civil penalties as provided under section 8 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 618). Failure to register as required under section 3 shall subject AIPAC to the penalties described in such section 8.

### SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of its enactment.