

117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 2374

To require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the educational material used by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 5, 2021

Mr. Sherman (for himself, Mr. Zeldin, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Mast, and Mr. Trone) 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, 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 curricula for school-aged chil-3 dren in grades 1 through 11.
 - (2) Textbooks used by the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank and Gaza include graphics portraying violence against Israeli soldiers, positive portrayals of individuals who have committed attacks against citizens of Israel, and references to Palestinian efforts to target the "Zionists".
 - (3) PA textbooks are used at schools sponsored by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) because UNRWA schools use the textbooks of the host government.
 - (4) On April 26, 2018, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) published a report that found the following:
 - (A) Textbooks in PA schools feature inaccurate and misleading maps of the region and include militaristic, adversarial imagery and content that incite hatred.
 - (B) The Department of State raised with Palestinian officials the objectionable content in textbooks, including a specific math problem using the number of Palestinian casualties in the First and Second Intifadas.

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1 (C) The United Nations Relief and Works
2 Agency (UNRWA), in its review of the text3 books, identified content not aligned with
4 United Nations values, the majority of which
5 content related to neutrality or bias issues, in6 cluding issues related to maps and references to
7 Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

8 SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

9 It is the sense of Congress that the Palestinian Au10 thority has not sufficiently eliminated content and pas11 sages encouraging violence or intolerance toward other
12 countries or ethnic groups from the curriculum used in
13 their schools.

14 SEC. 4. REPORTS REQUIRED.

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter 16 for two years in accordance with subsection (c), the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign 18 19 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-20 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report review-21 ing curriculum used in schools in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority or located in Gaza and controlled by any other entity. Each such report shall include the following:

- 1 (1) A determination of whether there is content 2 or passages encouraging violence or intolerance to-3 ward other countries or ethnic groups in such cur-4 riculum, and a detailed explanation of the reasons 5 for reaching such determination.
 - (2) An assessment of the steps the Palestinian Authority is taking to reform such curriculum at schools to conform with standards of peace and tolerance in the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (adopted November 16, 1995).
 - (3) A determination whether United States foreign assistance is used, directly or indirectly, to fund the dissemination of such curriculum by the Palestinian Authority.
 - (4) A detailed report on how United States assistance is being used to address curriculum that encourages violence or intolerance toward other nations or ethnic groups.
 - (5) A detailed report about United States diplomatic efforts in the preceding five years to encourage peace and tolerance in Palestinian education.

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| 1 | (6) If any diplomatic efforts referred to in para- |
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| 2 | graph (5) were stopped by the Secretary of State, |
| 3 | the reasons for such stoppages. |
| 4 | (b) Public Availability.—The Secretary of State |
| 5 | shall post on a publicly available website of the Depart- |
| 6 | ment of State each report required under subsection (a). |
| 7 | (c) Subsequent Deadlines.—Each report required |
| 8 | by subsection (a), other than the first such report, shall |
| 9 | be submitted not later than 90 days after the date on |
| 10 | which a new school year begins for schools controlled by |

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11 the Palestinian Authority.