



[Congressmembers Send Letter to Trump Denouncing His Mideast Peace Plan Proposal](#)

Led by Representatives Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) and Andy Levin (D-MI), a total of 107 Congressmembers sent a letter to President Trump denouncing his recently-released Mideast Peace Plan proposal. The signatory lawmakers criticized the plan for paving the way towards permanent Israeli occupation of the West Bank and endorsing the annexation of illegally-constructed settlements. They also condemned the Trump administration for failing to consult with the Palestinians when devising the proposal, and for crafting an idea of Palestinian statehood that falls far short of a real and viable state. Additionally, the group of Congressmembers highlighted the suspicious timing of the plan's release mere weeks before Israel's upcoming election in March and in the midst of the formal criminal indictments against Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, both of which suggested ulterior motives.

Some of the high-profile signatories of the letter included Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Congressman Joe Kennedy III (D-MA), Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton (D-VA), Congressman John Lewis (D-GA), and presidential candidate, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI). In their letter, one of the main points emphasized by the lawmakers was their support for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They argued that Trump's proposal made a "genuine two-state solution impossible" because the territory given to the Palestinians for a future state would be surrounded by Israeli settlements and enclaves, which does not in fact constitute legitimate statehood. The Congressmembers wrote that "a real two-state solution is the only conflict-ending means of securing both national self-determination for Palestinians and an Israel that is secure, democratic, and a homeland for the Jewish people."

The lawmakers also referenced a recent House Resolution – House Resolution 326 – which passed with bipartisan support and reaffirmed that any viable U.S.-proposed peace plan must include support for a two-state solution. The resolution expressed Congressional opposition to unilateral Israeli annexation of the occupied West Bank and settlement expansion, which prior to the Trump administration, had been consistent and longstanding American policy. Under previous U.S. presidential administrations of both political parties, the aforementioned behavior had been strongly opposed because it hindered efforts to establish a viable Palestinian state.

One of the other main aspects of the Trump plan which was strongly condemned by the signatory Congressmembers was the timing of its release. Israel is set to have its third election in a year next month in March, and the lawmakers accused the Trump administration of an attempt at inappropriately intervening in a foreign election. It has been argued that the proposal was released in an effort to appease the right-wing Israeli electorate prior to the upcoming election. Many aspects of the plan are positions that this segment of the population has long-supported and would therefore provide a boost to incumbent Prime Minister Netanyahu in his attempt at retaining power. Netanyahu was recently formally-indicted on criminal charges which has added to his already tough re-election campaign, as the last two elections have failed to produce a leader who can garner enough support in the Israeli Knesset to form a coalition government.