

## **Background on Section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act**

Section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act allows Congress to request information on a particular country's human rights practices and to alter or terminate U.S. security assistance to that country in light of the information received.

**Step 1:** Upon introduction of a resolution under Section 502B(c), the Foreign Relations Committee has ten days to consider the resolution in Committee. After ten days, the sponsors can force a floor vote on the motion to discharge the resolution from committee. The resolution is privileged, and there is a simple majority threshold for the motion to discharge and final passage.

**Step 2:** If the resolution passes, the administration must submit the requested report within 30 days, or all security assistance to the country in question automatically stops.

**Step 3:** After the report is received, Section 502B(c) stipulates that Congress may at any time thereafter adopt a joint resolution conditioning, restricting, terminating, or continuing security assistance to the country in question. These resolutions are again privileged and require a simple majority for passage, but must clear both Houses of Congress and be signed by the President.

*Note: Congress has not requested a report under 502B(c) since 1976.*

## **Sanders 502(B) Resolution on Israel**

This resolution:

- Acknowledges the Hamas terrorist attack, the loss of innocent life, and Israel's right to respond;
- Lays out the loss of life and destruction in Gaza thus far, including nearly 19,000 killed and more than 50,000 wounded; 1.9 million displaced, 60% of the housing stock destroyed, 135 UN workers killed, more than 100 UN facilities damaged in strikes;
- Places this destruction in historical context and notes the dense urban environment;
- Details the extensive use of U.S. arms, particularly massive explosive ordinance, such as Mark 84 2,000-pound bombs and 155mm artillery;
- Notes the credible findings from human rights monitors and the press that U.S. arms were used in several specific strikes leading to large numbers of civilian casualties;
- **Per Section 502B(c), requests the State Department report on**, among other things:
  - o credible allegations of the violation of internationally recognized human rights in Gaza, particularly the denial of the right to life caused by indiscriminate or disproportionate military operations;
  - o the denial of the right to life by the blanket denial of basic humanitarian needs;
  - o actions the U.S. has taken to limit civilian risk caused by Israeli military action;
  - o certification that no unit of the Israeli security forces has committed any gross violations of human rights;
  - o summary of arms and munitions provided to Israel since October 7;
  - o assessment of Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law in Gaza;
  - o description of the end-use monitoring of arms sold/transferred for use in Gaza.