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AIPAC Taking US Members of Congress to Israel in Effort to Sabotage Iran Deal

By Ben Norton
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In-depth Report: IRAN: THE NEXT WAR?

The American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), the educational wing of hardline right-wing pro-Israel lobbying organization the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), is taking all but three freshmen US lawmakers on a tour of Israel, in hopes of turning them against the Iran nuclear deal.

Over 50 US congresspeople will meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Israel in August.

Two separate trips are being organized along partisan lines—one for Democrats, and another for Republicans.

The Democrat trip begins on August 3, and will be led by House Minority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland).

The Republican trip begins on August 8, and will be led by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-California).

Human rights and anti-war group CODEPINK, which has been advocating on behalf of the Iran nuclear deal—which will prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons in return for lifting US sanctions on the country, and which is supported by the overwhelming majority of the international community—has been closely monitoring the planned trips.

“AIPAC trips to Israel are designed to give congresspeople a one-sided view of the region, the view of Bibi Netanyahu,” remarked CODEPINK National Coordinator Alli McCracken. “With war and peace in the balance, perhaps the Congresspeople should take a side trip to Iran to get a more balanced picture.”

McCracken said they personally called the offices of representatives who are going on the trip, encouraging them to support the deal.

Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CODEPINK and a longtime Palestinian human rights advocate, said the “Congressional recess is a time for elected representatives to be home in their districts, reaching out to their constituents, not taking propaganda trips to Israel on AIPAC’s dime.”

CODEPINK compiled a list of all of the freshmen representatives going to Israel, and provided *The Intercept* with a copy of it, which is embedded below.

Just three freshmen lawmakers are not going on the trips, Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan), Don Beyer (D-Virginia), and Norma Torres (D-California).

Congress has 60 days to review the Iran deal. AIEF/AIPAC is hoping to persuade US congresspeople to undermine and vote against the deal, although Obama has vowed to veto any attempt by the legislature to do so. Congress would need a two-thirds majority in order to override the president's veto.

District	Representative	Office	Phone	Twitter	Not Going
California 25	Steve Knight (R)	1023 LHOB	202-225-1956	@SteveKnight25	
Arizona 2	Martha McSally(R)	1029 LHOB	202-225-2542	@MarthaMcSally	
Nebraska 2	Brad Ashford (D)	107 CHOB	202-225-4155	@RepBradAshford	
New York 24	John Katko (R)	1123 LHOB	202-225-3701	@RepJohnKatko	
Montana AL	Ryan Zinke (R)	113 CHOB	202-225-3211	@RyanZinke	
Michigan 12	Debbie Dingell (D)	116 CHOB	202-225-4071	@RepDebDingell	Not Going
Michigan 4	John Moolenaar(R)	117 CHOB	202-225-3561	@RepMoolenaa	
Pennsylvania 13	Brendan F. Boyle(D)	118 CHOB	202-225-6111	@RepBrendanBoyle	
Florida 2	Gwen Graham (D)	1213 LHOB	202-225-5235	@RepGwenGraham	
Arizona 7	Ruben Gallego(D)	1218 LHOB	202-225-4065	@RepRubenGallego	
California 31	Pete Aguilar (D)	1223 LHOB	202-225-3201	@RepPeteAguilar	
Arkansas 2	French Hill (R)	1229 LHOB	202-225-2506	@RepFrenchHill	
West Virginia 2	Alex Mooney (R)	1232 LHOB	202-225-2711	@RepAlexMooney	
Michigan 14	Brenda Lawrence(D)	1237 LHOB	202-225-5802	@RepLawrence	
New Jersey 12	Bonnie Watson Coleman (D)	126 CHOB	202-225-5801	@RepBWColeman	
Oklahoma 5	Steve Russell (R)	128 CHOB	202-225-2132	@RepRussell	
Arkansas 4	Bruce Westerman(R)	130 CHOB	202-225-3772	@RepWesterman	
Massachusetts 6	Seth Moulton (D)	1408 LHOB	202-225-8020	@sethmoulton	
Mississippi 1	Trent Kelly (R)	1427 LHOB	202-225-4306	@RepTrentKelly	
Florida 26	Carlos Curbelo(R)	1429 LHOB	202-225-2778	@RepCurbelo	
Illinois 12	Mike Bost (R)	1440 LHOB	202-225-5661	@RepBost	
New York 4	Kathleen Rice (D)	1508 LHOB	202-225-5516	@RepKathleenRice	
Georgia 10	Jody Hice (R)	1516 LHOB	202-225-4101	@CongressmanHice	
New York 1	Lee Zeldin (R)	1517 LHOB	202-225-3826	@RepLeeZeldin	
Washington 4	Dan Newhouse(R)	1641 LHOB	202-225-5816	@RepNewhouse	
Michigan 11	David Trott (R)	1722 LHOB	202-225-8171	@repdavetrott	
New York 11	Daniel Donovan(R)	1725 LHOB	202-225-3371	@dandonovan_ny	
Louisiana 6	Garret Graves (R)	204 CHOB	202-225-3901	@RepGarretGraves	
Alabama 6	Gary Palmer (R)	206 CHOB	202-225-4921	@USRepGaryPalmer	
Iowa 1	Rod Blum (R)	213 CHOB	202-225-2911	@RepRodBlum	
Utah 4	Mia Love (R)	217 CHOB	202-225-3011	@RepMiaLove	
Illinois 10	Bob Dold (R)	221 CHOB	202-225-4835	@RepDold	
Virginia 10	Barbara Comstock(R)	226 CHOB	202-225-5136	@RepComstock	
California 45	Mimi Walters (R)	236 CHOB	202-225-5611	@RepMimiWalters	
Georgia 11	Barry Loudermilk(R)	238 CHOB	202-225-2931	@RepLoudermilk	
North Carolina 6	Mark Walker (R)	312 CHOB	202-225-3065	@RepMarkWalker	
Texas 36	Brian Babin (R)	316 CHOB	202-225-1555	@RepBrianBabin	
Texas 23	Will Hurd (R)	317 CHOB	202-225-4511	@HurdOnTheHill	
Texas 4	John Ratcliffe (R)	325 CHOB	202-225-6673	@RepRatcliffe	
New Hampshire 1	Frank Guinta (R)	326 CHOB	202-225-5456	@RepFrankGuinta	
California 11	Mark DeSaulnier(D)	327 CHOB	202-225-2095	@RepDeSaulnier	
California 33	Ted Lieu (D)	415 CHOB	202-225-3976	@RepTedLieu	
Colorado 4	Ken Buck (R)	416 CHOB	202-225-4676	@RepKenBuck	
Louisiana 5	Ralph Abraham(R)	417 CHOB	202-225-8490	@RepAbraham	
Hawaii 1	Mark Takai (D)	422 CHOB	202-225-2726	@RepMarkTakai	
North Carolina 7	David Rouzer (R)	424 CHOB	202-225-2731	@RepDavidRouzer	
Maine 2	Bruce Poliquin (R)	426 CHOB	202-225-6306	@RepPoliquin	
Pennsylvania 6	Ryan Costello (R)	427 CHOB	202-225-4315	@RepRyanCostello	
Michigan 8	Mike Bishop (R)	428 CHOB	202-225-4872	@RepMikeBishop	
Nevada 4	Cresent Hardy (R)	430 CHOB	202-225-9894	@RepHardy	
Virginia 8	Don Beyer (D)	431 CHOB	202-225-4376	@RepDonBeyer	Not Going
Georgia 1	Buddy Carter (R)	432 CHOB	202-225-5831	@RepBuddyCarter	
Wisconsin 6	Glenn Grothman(R)	501 CHOB	202-225-2476	@RepGrothman	
West Virginia 3	Evan Jenkins (R)	502 CHOB	202-225-3452	@RepRickAllen	
Minnesota 6	Tom Emmer (R)	503 CHOB	202-225-2331	@RepTomEmmer	
New Jersey 3	Tom MacArthur(R)	506 CHOB	202-225-4765	@RepTomMacArthur	
New York 21	Elise Stefanik (R)	512 CHOB	202-225-4611	@RepStefanik	
Georgia 12	Rick W. Allen (R)	513 CHOB	202-225-2823	@rickwwarren	
Iowa 3	David Young (R)	515 CHOB	202-225-5476	@RepDavidYoung	
California 35	Norma Torres (D)	516 CHOB	202-225-6161	@NormaJTorres	Not Going

Roster of the freshman class for the 114th Congress color-coded by party. The three highlighted members are the only ones not attending an AIPAC trip to Israel. (Image: CODEPINK)

Ben Norton is a freelance journalist and writer based in New York City. His work has been featured in a variety of publications. His website can be found at BenNorton.com. Follow him on Twitter at@BenjaminNorton.

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