



# THE ISRAEL LOBBY & AMERICAN POLICY 2018

IsraelLobbyandAmericanPolicy.org  
March 2, 2018 at the National Press Club, Washington, DC



# Grant F. Smith, IRmep

## The Israel Lobby Agenda

Nonfiction > Politics



▶ Sample

# The Israel Lobby: Nonprofit Sector Snapshot

	2012	2020
Revenue (billion)	\$3.7	\$6.3
Employees	14,000	17,000
Volunteers	350,000	414,000



# 1.0 Israel Lobby Initiative: Get the U.S. to confer legitimacy upon Israel's territorial acquisitions.

- Israel's goal since 1948: Recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital
- The original 1947 U.N. partition plan called for Jerusalem to be "internationalized."
- U.S. presidents refrained from moving the embassy to Jerusalem because of commitments to U.N. Security Council Resolution 478, passed in 1980, which rejected Israel's declaration that Jerusalem was its "complete and united capital" because East Jerusalem was territory captured in the 1967 Six-Day War, a war that Israel started.
  - Parties to Resolution 478 committed to withdrawing diplomatic missions from the city.
- U.N. resolution 242 calling for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories captured in 1967.
- Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995

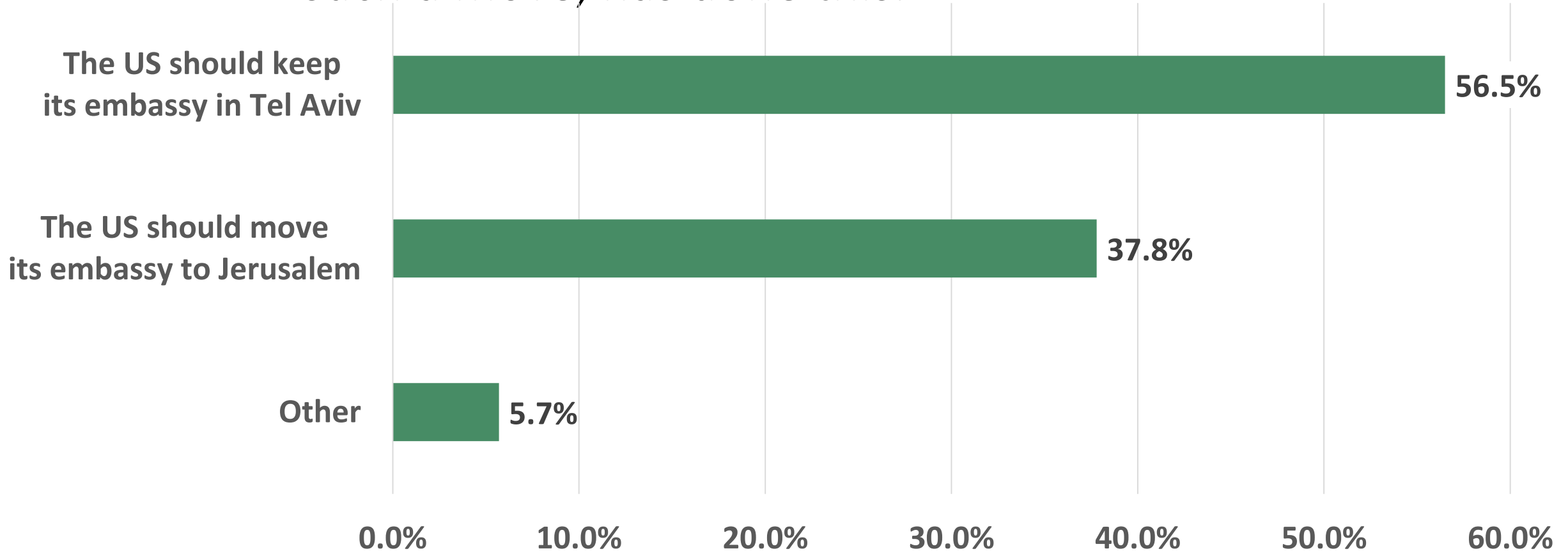
Source: Poll: Most Americans don't want U.S. embassy moved to Jerusalem: Candidates keep making promises to get elected – January 30, 2017

# Major U.S. presidential candidates who campaigned in favor of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem

<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>Republican Party</b>
Joe Biden	George W. Bush
Jimmy Carter	Ted Cruz
Bill Clinton	Bob Dole
Hillary Clinton	Gerald Ford
Michael Dukakis	John McCain
Gary Hart	Mitt Romney
John Kerry	Marco Rubio
Walter Mondale	Donald Trump



**Question:** Israel's U.S. lobby wants the U.S. embassy in Israel moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. No other country, in accord with U.N. resolutions opposing such a move, has done this.



Source: IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys

[http://irmep.org/polls/content/01032017\\_embassy.asp](http://irmep.org/polls/content/01032017_embassy.asp)

**January, 2017**

# Cost to America: U.S. becomes Israel's designated arbitrator of territorial claims

- Trades U.S. legitimacy to achieve aims the world views as illegitimate
  - April 14, 2004 George W. Bush Letter to Israeli PM Sharon
    - “ In light of new realities on the ground, including already existing major Israeli populations centers, it is unrealistic to expect that the outcome of final status negotiations will be a full and complete return to the armistice lines of 1949..”
- Sets the U.S. up to implement other Israel/lobby goals
  - Recognize a “unified Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.”
  - Golan Heights as part of Israel
  - Portions or all of the West Bank as part of Israel
- Not likely to “stick.”



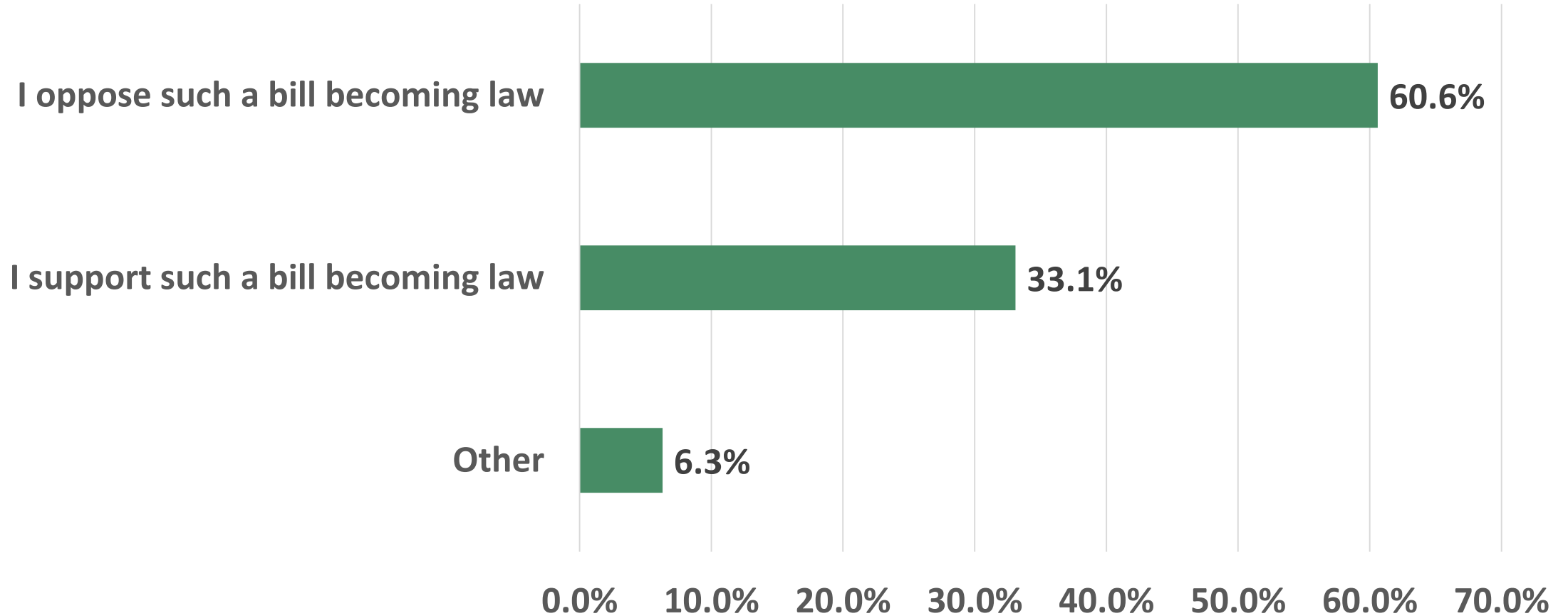
## 2.0 Israel Lobby Initiative: Pass laws equating criticism of Israel with “Anti-Semitism”

- **Anti-Semitism Awareness Act**

- Expansive U.S. State Department definition of anti-Semitism
  - Itself a product of Israel lobby efforts
- Some criticism of Israel defined as “anti-Semitism”
- Federal funds cutoff to colleges and universities



**Question:** Civil liberties groups oppose an Israel lobby bill barring federal funds to universities that permit protest focused solely on Israel, by defining it as anti-Semitism.

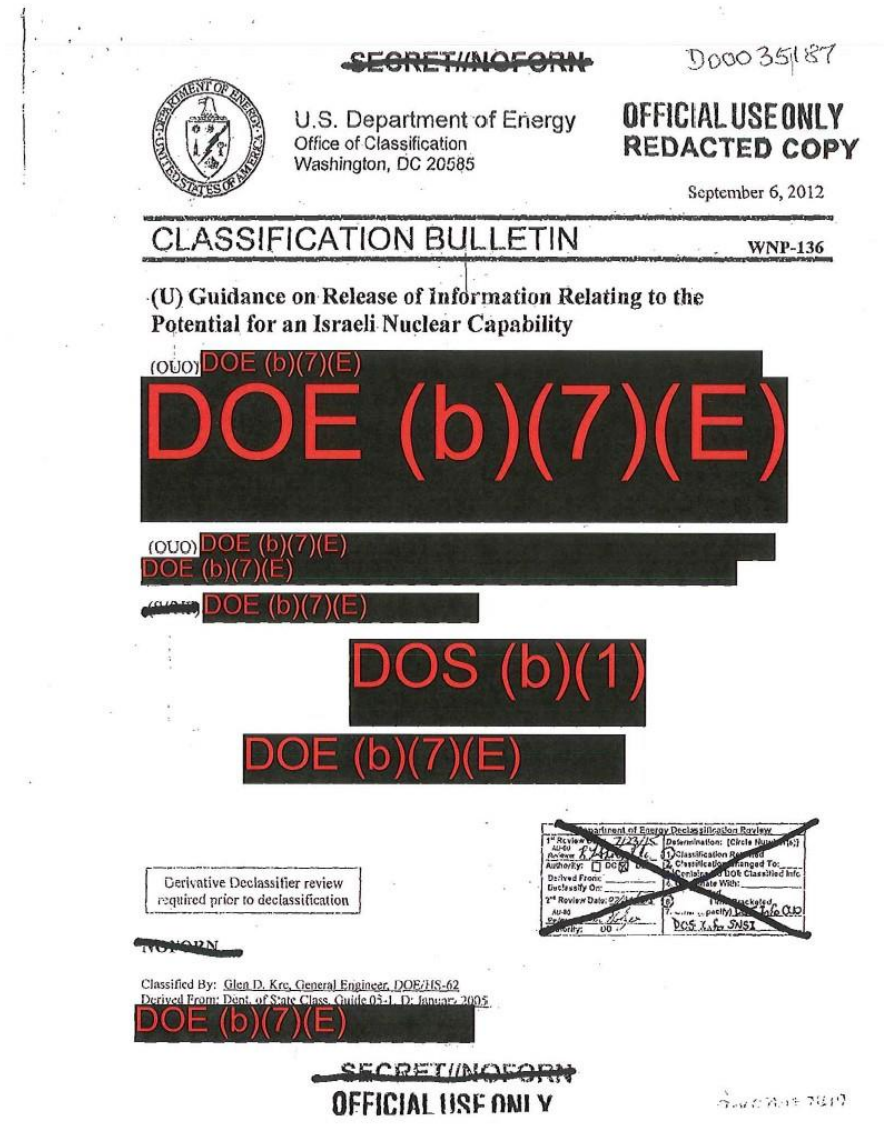


Source: IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys  
[http://irmep.org/polls/content/11292017\\_Anti-Semitism.asp](http://irmep.org/polls/content/11292017_Anti-Semitism.asp)



# Cost to America: U.S. increasingly punishes critics and truth-tellers via “gag laws”

- Gag laws can also take the form of:
  - legislative rules
  - Classification to cover up wrongdoing or hide uncomfortable facts
- WPN-136
  - Regulation that can dismiss and jail government agency employees or contractors that openly discuss Israel’s nuclear weapons program.





### 3.0 Israel Lobby Initiative: : Groom evangelical Christian leaders to proselytize faith-based support for Israel

#### “Christian Religious Groups

Cultivation of key religious leaders and groups.

Setting up Seminars on Israel for Christian clergy.

Stimulating of positive articles in the Protestant and Catholic press.

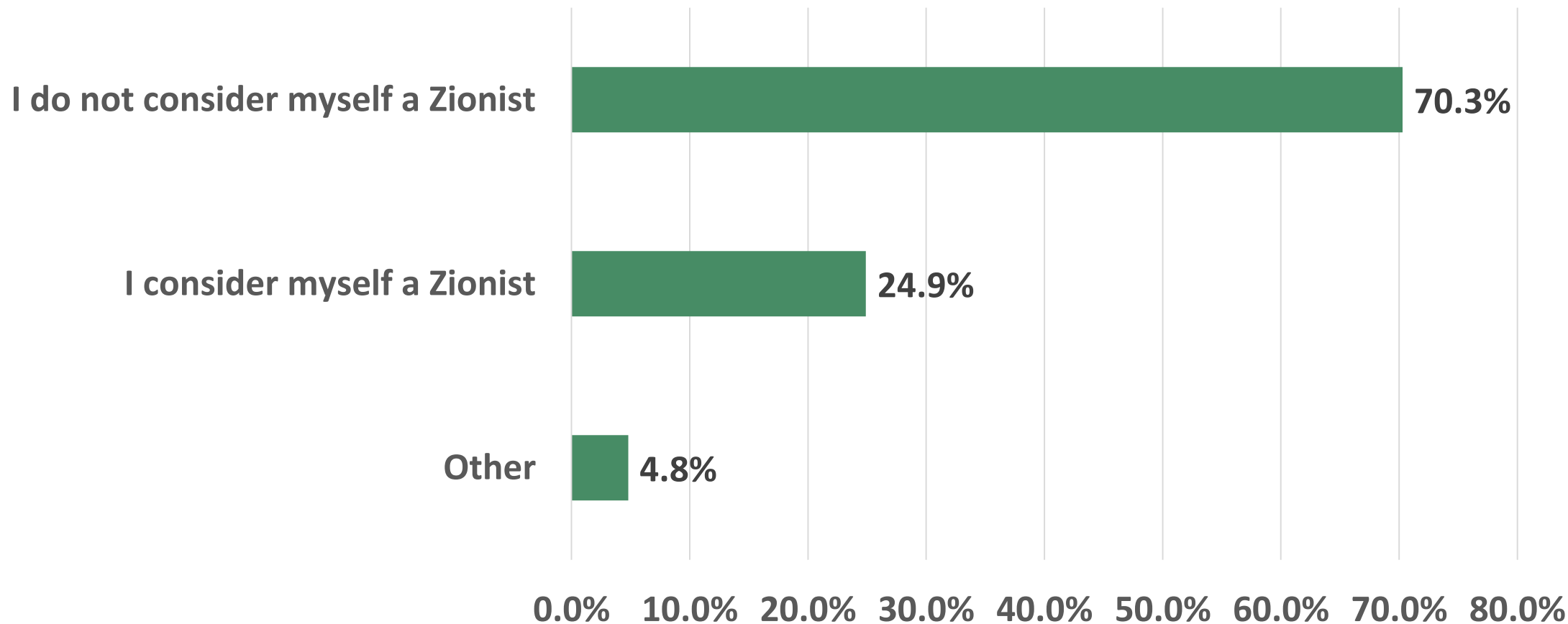
Counteraction of hostile material in that press.

Reprints and distribution of favorable materials from the church press.

Stimulation of suitable articles in the journals of the Jewish religious groups.”



**Question:** A Zionist is a person who believes in the development and protection of a Jewish nation in what is now Israel:

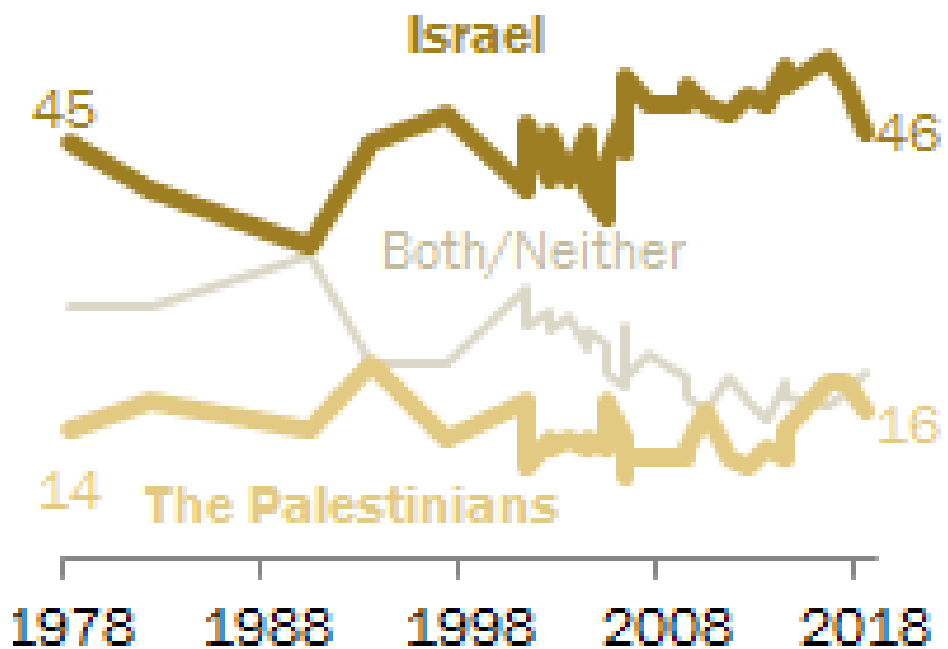


**Source:** IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys  
[http://irmep.org/polls/content/06152017\\_American\\_Zionism.asp](http://irmep.org/polls/content/06152017_American_Zionism.asp)

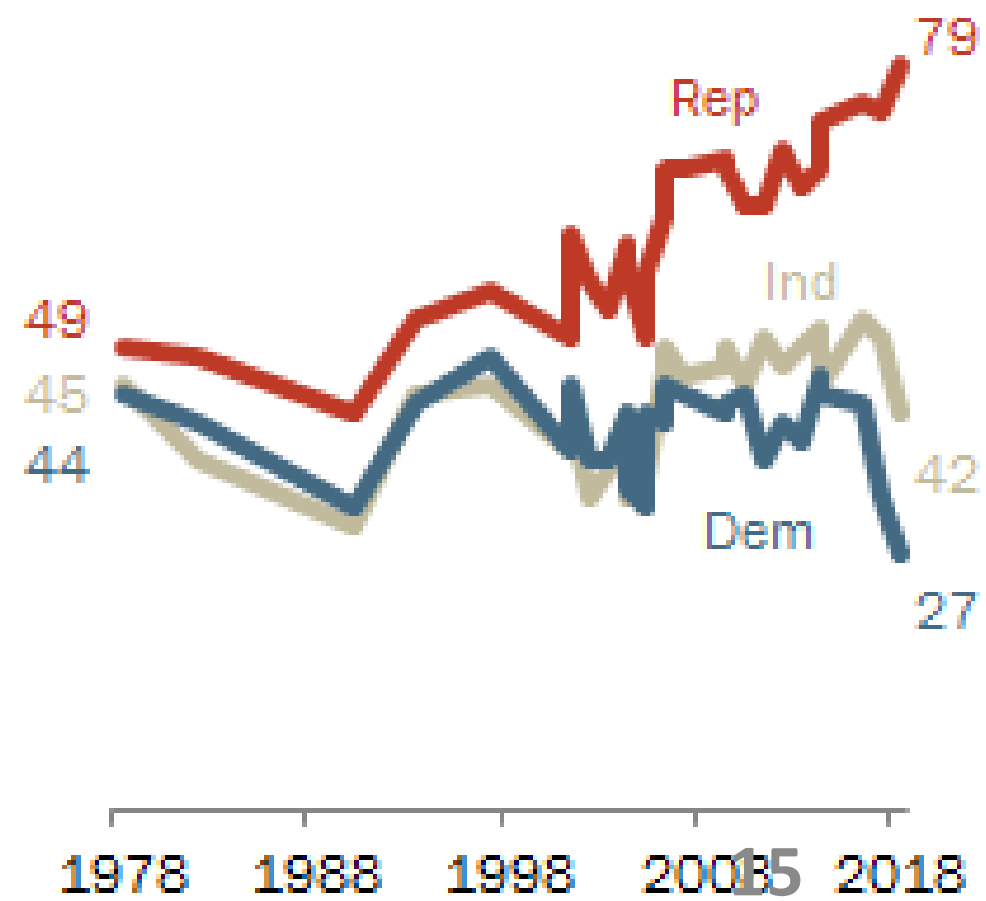
# Partisan divide in Middle East sympathies now wider than at any point in the past four decades

Survey of US adults conducted January 10-15, 2018

*In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, who do you sympathize with more? (%)*



*Sympathize with Israel, by party (%)*



# Christian Evangelicals and Israel: The Numbers

- Christian support groups have been around for a long time.
- “Born again” and evangelical Christians in the US a major phenomenon
- 105-135 million (International Fellowship of Christians and Jews 2004 poll)
- Total is actually closer to 80 million (Pew)
- 31% of base identify support for Israel as a “primary consideration” for selecting a presidential candidate
- 64% said it was an “important factor”



Pastor John Hagee  
Founder and National Chairman  
Christians United for Israel

Plank	Republican	Democratic
Unconditional US guarantee of Israel's conventional regional military superiority	✓	✓
Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided capital"	✓	✓
Opposition to Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) of Israel	✓	✓
Opposition to the "delegitimization" of Israel	✓	✓
Assertion of "common," "shared" values and "strategic interests" between US & Israel	✓	✓
US guarantee that Israel remains a "Jewish state."	✓	✓
Assertion that only regional parties may negotiate peace	✓	✓
Pledge of "no daylight" between Israel and US policies	✓	
Formal rejection that Israel unlawfully occupies any territory	✓	
Pledge to terminate US funding to any "outside party" seeking to "impose" peace	✓	
"Two-state solution" to "Israel-Palestinian conflict"		17 ✓

# Cost to America: Unconditional support

- Expansion of Israel-Centric Middle East foreign policy as a religious mandate.
- Elevates unconditional support for Israel over all other concerns within some religious groups
  - Humanitarian
  - Justice
  - Reason
  - Rule of law
- Threats to Israel exaggerated
- Uncomfortable facts ignored



# 4.0 Israel Lobby Initiative: : Suppress investigative journalism and reports critical of the Israel lobby

- Israel lobby organizations 100% devoted to media influence:
  - CAMERA
  - The Israel Project
  - FLAME
- Israel lobby organizations that get heavily involved “when needed”
  - American Jewish Committee
  - Zionist Organization of America
  - American Jewish Congress

## C-SPAN Watch



*Washington Journal*, a daily phone-in program, is a platform for the defamation of Israel and Jews. C-SPAN executives Susan Swain and Rob Kennedy, like network founder Brian Lamb before them, stonewall public complaint.

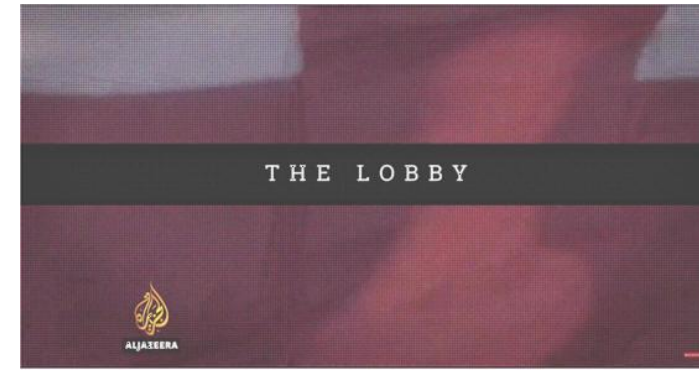
Informed individuals are urged to phone in during segments relevant to Israel or the Middle East. If aired, such a call will be noted as a C-SPAN Watch entry which will include an online link to the video clip of the call. The call-in numbers are...  
[More](#)

[Click here](#) for latest entry (Feb. 18, 2018)



# Cost to America case study: Suppressing Al Jazeera's "The Lobby" investigative series

- Drive to suppress Al Jazeera's investigative report on the operations of the Israeli embassy and lobbying organizations in Washington through:
  - Registering Al Jazeera reporters as "foreign agents" engaged in "espionage."
  - Denying Qatar Airways landing rights in DC
  - Demands: Qatari government censor the report, and close Al Jazeera
  - Organizations: American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Zionist Organization of America
  - Individuals: Alan Dershowitz, Mort Klein





## 5.0 Israel Lobby Initiative: Outlaw grassroots economic boycotts or U.N. actions that advance Palestinian rights

- Israel Anti-Boycott Act
  - Modifies a set of existing laws to protect Israel from grassroots boycotts.
  - Israel's international isolation as a US "emergency" under the 1976 National Emergencies Act
  - Makes Israel the only specially-designated foreign country advanced under US trade law, which is supposed to promote US trade.
  - Requires the US to police U.N. and foreign country exposure and boycott activities, such as the U.N. list of countries doing business in the occupied territories.



# Sen. Ben Cardin Top 20 Political Contributors in 2017

Rank	Category	Contributor Name	Affiliations	Amount
1	PAC	ACTBLUE	Democratic Party PAC	\$476,765
2	PAC	NORPAC	Israel Stealth PAC	\$39,700
3	PAC	WASHINGTON POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	Israel Stealth PAC	\$10,000
4	PAC	AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AFL-CIO COMMITTEE	Education PAC	\$10,000
5	PAC	IMPACT	Charles Schumer PAC	\$10,000
6	PAC	SELECT MEDICAL CORPORATION PAC	Medical PAC	\$10,000
7	Individual	ATKINS, CHESTER G		\$5,400

# Sen. Ben Cardin Top 20 Political Contributors in 2017

Rank	Category	Contributor Name	Affiliations	Amount
8	Individual	CAPLAN, CONSTANCE R	Jewish Community Federation	\$5,400
9	Individual	CARDIN, SANFORD R	President of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation	\$5,400
10	Individual	COHEN, SUZANNE F	Jewish Federation of Baltimore	\$5,400
11	Individual	CORDISH, SUSAN K	Jewish Community Federation	\$5,400
12	Individual	DREZNER, JEFFREY L	Masada circle level supporter of Birthright	\$5,400

# Sen. Ben Cardin Top 20 Political Contributors in 2017

Rank	Category	Contributor Name	Affiliations	Amount
13	Individual	DREZNER, LORA	Masada circle level supporter of Birthright Israel	\$5,400
14	Individual	FIDLER, GENINE	Chair Jewish Federations General Assembly	\$5,400
15	Individual	FOX, ALLAN M		\$5,400
16	Individual	FRIEDMAN, HOWARD F	Former AIPAC president	\$5,400
17	Individual	KAPLAN, EDWARD H	BOG of Technion-Israel Institute of Technology	\$5,400
18	Individual	KAPLAN, IRENE R	Chair, Government	\$5,400

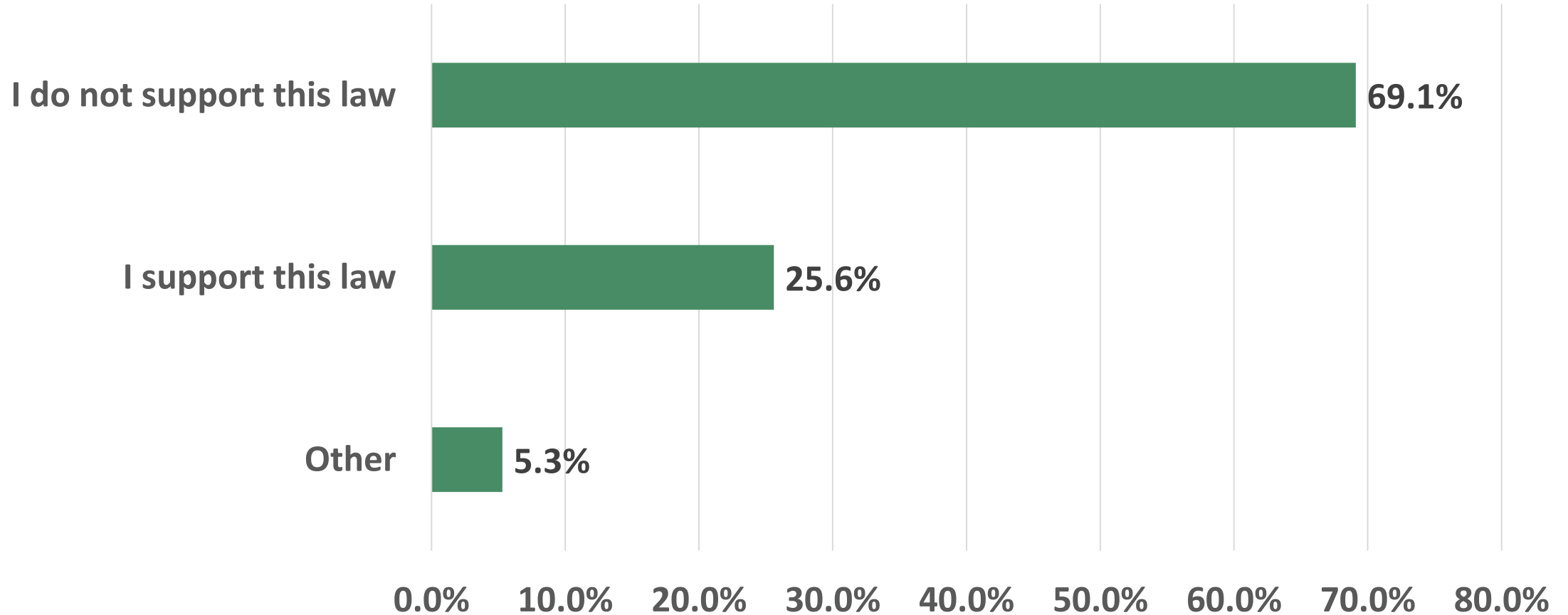
# Sen. Ben Cardin Top 20 Political Contributors in 2017

Rank	Category	Contributor Name	Affiliations	Amount
19	Individual	KOGOD, ROBERT P	Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Shalom Hartman Institute, developing the Israeli Embassy	\$5,400
20	Individual	KORNFELD, RICK	Bike for Israel founder	\$5,400

Source: FEC filings



**Question:** Congress may pass the Israel Anti-Boycott Act to punish Americans up to \$1 million in fines & 20 years in prison for economic boycotts of Israel over human rights violations:



**Source:** IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys  
[http://irmep.org/polls/content/08032017\\_Israel\\_Anti-Boycott\\_Act.asp](http://irmep.org/polls/content/08032017_Israel_Anti-Boycott_Act.asp)

**August, 2017**

# Cost to America: US laws protect Israeli actions the world justifiably considers unlawful.

- Yet another complex law mandating the US provide cover for Israel's bad behavior
  - Exports from illegal settlements
  - Exposing corporations investing and operating in illegal settlements
- When the key attributes are explained, Americans overwhelmingly oppose it
- Driven entirely by the Israel lobby's coordinated campaign contribution network—not US economic, humanitarian or popular interests





## 6.0 Israel lobby initiative: Provoke US confrontations with Iran

- AIPAC and the elite Israel lobby advocacy organizations encourage US attacks on Iran.
- Worked diligently against JCPOA, now want to overturn it.
- The Israel lobby also worked hard for the US to attack Iraq, but did not want the blame if/when things turned out badly.
- The lobby works “behind the scenes” to avoid accountability.
- Counts on leniency when it goes too far.
- December 12 secret MOU for joint Israeli-US actions against Iran

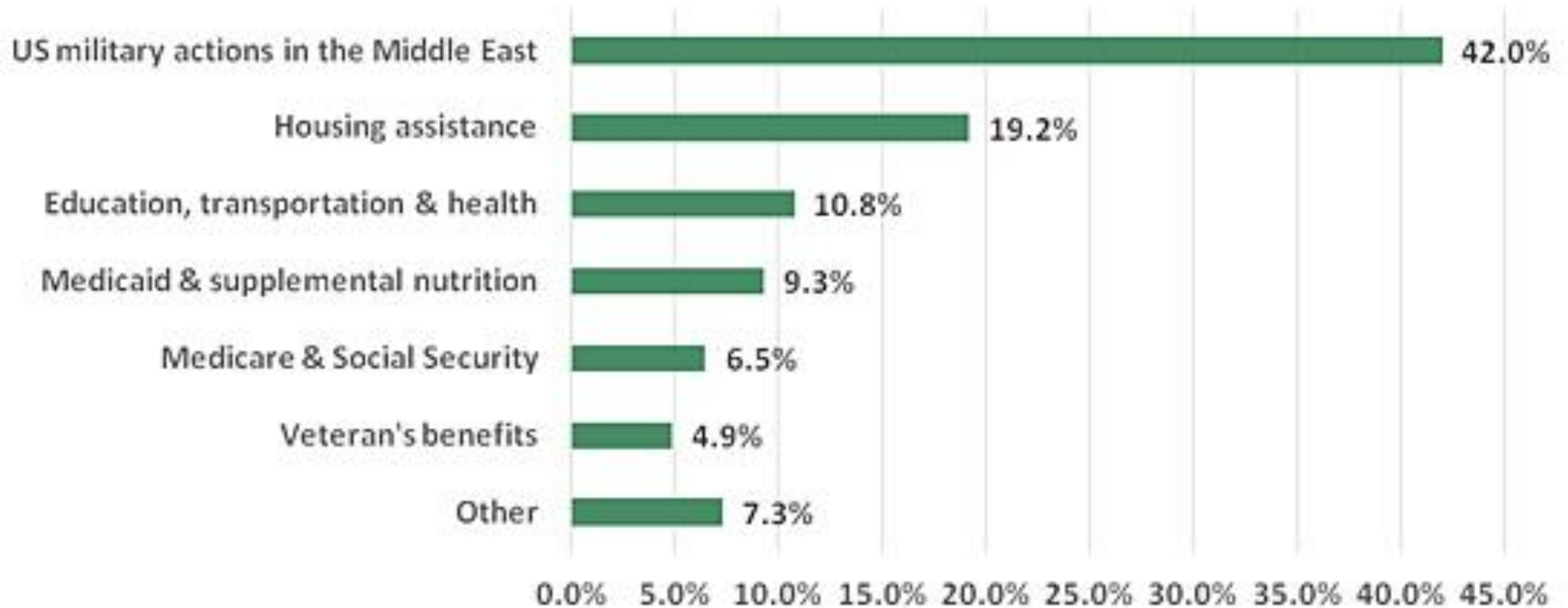
# Covert AIPAC action targeting Iran led to the 2005 “AIPAC espionage scandal”

- Two AIPAC staffers and a DoD official shop around purloined national security information.
- Caught by the FBI trying to sell Iran attacking US stories to the Washington Post.
- Col. Lawrence Franklin convicted of a felony.
- Obama administration drops charges against AIPAC staffers.





**Question:** Which expenditure category should Congress cut to make government more responsive to the American people and reduce the budget deficit?



“Crisis Initiation” is a challenge, according to AIPAC’s think tank, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy – but nautical provocations work

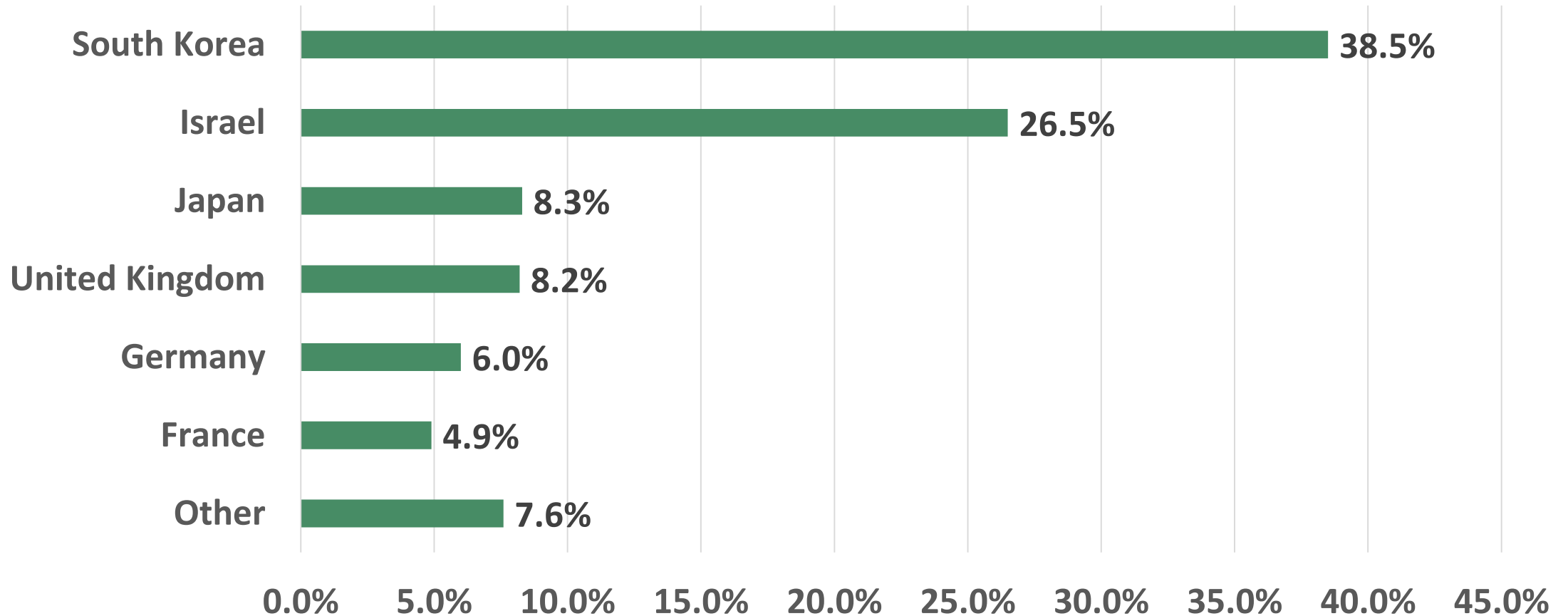
- The analysis of Patrick Clawson, Director for Research at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy:
  - It took Pearl Harbor to get the US into WWII
  - Lusitania sinking to get US into war WWI
  - Gulf of Tonkin to escalate Vietnam war
  - USS Maine explosion to get the Spanish-American War
  - Civil War after Fort Sumpter attacked.
- Conclusion: If Iran refuses to be an aggressor against the US, sinking an Iranian submarine might get Iran to lash out at the US And provide the needed pretext for war.



“It’s very hard for me to see how the United States President can get us to war with Iran.”



# Question (May 2017): Which of the following US allies do you believe is most likely to embroil the US in an unnecessary, protracted and costly war?

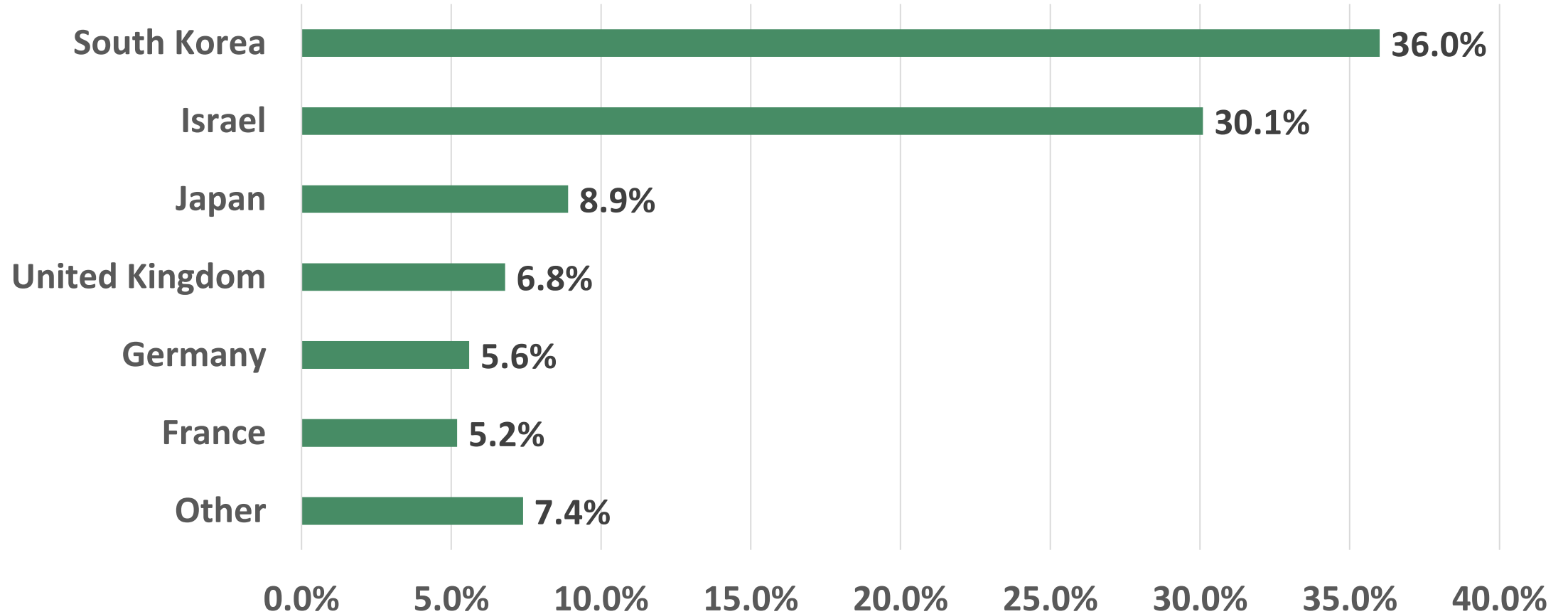


Source: IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys

[http://irmep.org/polls/content/05182017\\_Allies\\_War.asp](http://irmep.org/polls/content/05182017_Allies_War.asp)



Question (February 2018): Which of the following US allies do you believe is most likely to embroil the US in an unnecessary, protracted and costly war?



Source: IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys

[Enter URL](#)

February, 2018

33



Israel on track to become, in American public opinion, “the most likely ally” to involve the US in unnecessary war  
– May 2017 vs. Feb 2018

South Korea

-2.5%

Israel

+3.6%





## 7.0 Massive, unconditional federal foreign aid and state funding, secret intelligence aid, tax preferences for Israel

- Federal aid for missile defense, homeland security, water resource development, energy and cybersecurity.
- State grants to build Israel lobby infrastructure and joint programs with Israel.
- AIPAC currently telling members that it will be lobbying for an increase
- Potential new pool of assets: \$24 billion in US AID that could be cut to countries that condemned US Jerusalem recognition.

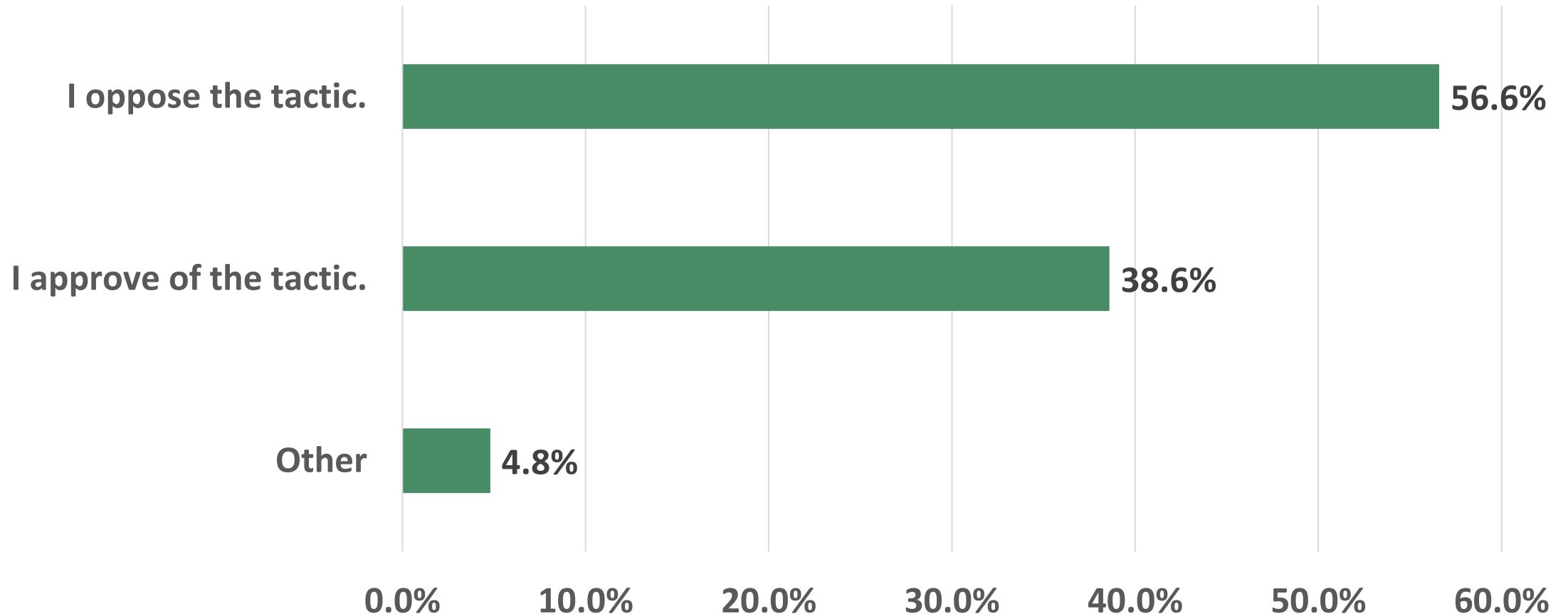


**Mark Green, Administrator  
USAID  
Speaking at AIPAC 2018**





**Question:** The Trump administration threatened to end foreign aid to any country that condemned its recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Do you approve of such tactics?

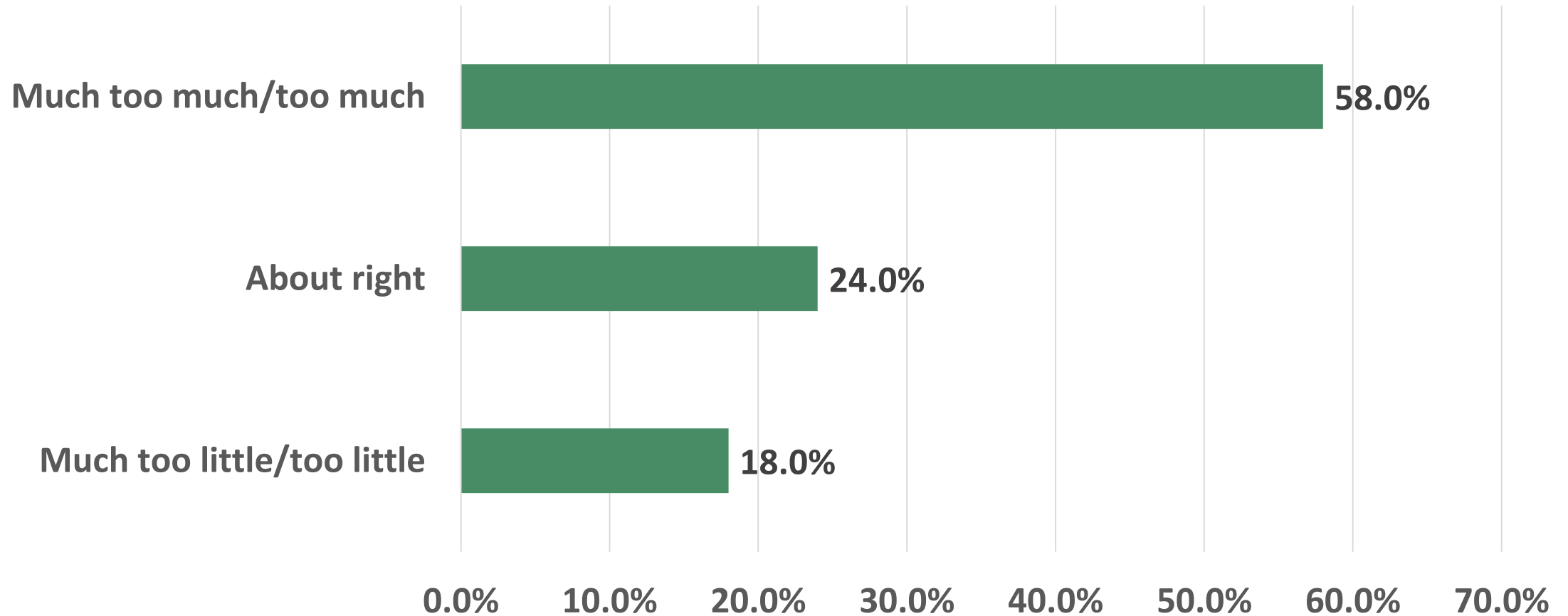


**Source:** IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys  
[http://irmep.org/polls/content/01042018\\_Foreign\\_Aid\\_Jerusalem.asp](http://irmep.org/polls/content/01042018_Foreign_Aid_Jerusalem.asp)





**Question:** Israel & its US lobby demanded Congress give Israel over \$250 billion in foreign aid since 1948—far more than any other foreign country or to rebuild post-WWII Europe. It is:



Source: IRmep Poll through Google Consumer Surveys