

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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June 24, 2026

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
House Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Ranking Member
House Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Oppose Amendment 151 and Amendment 362, and Support Adoption of Amendment 2 to the FY2027 NDAA

Dear Chairwoman Foxx, Ranking Member McGovern, and Members of the Committee:
On behalf of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, we respectfully urge the House Rules Committee to reject Amendment 151 to the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), reject Amendment 362, and make Amendment 2 in order for floor consideration.

Oppose Amendment 151

Amendment 151, offered by Representatives Michael Lawler (R-NY), María Elvira Salazar (R-FL), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), Mark Messmer (R-IN), Don Davis (D-NC), and Pete Stauber (R-MN), would expand federal anti-boycott restrictions to cover boycotts promoted or requested by international governmental organizations (IGOs), including entities such as the United Nations. This proposal raises serious First Amendment concerns by further burdening constitutionally protected political advocacy and peaceful boycott activity.

The amendment is particularly troubling because it represents a renewed attempt to advance legislation substantially similar to the controversial International Governmental Organizations (IGO) Anti-Boycott Act. Just days ago, a similar proposal offered by Rep. Lawler was withdrawn before consideration by the House Foreign Affairs Committee following concerns raised by CAIR and other civil liberties advocates regarding its impact on free speech and political expression. Congress should not use the NDAA process to revive a proposal that failed to advance through regular committee consideration.

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Americans have a constitutional right to engage in peaceful political boycotts and to advocate for human rights, accountability, and changes in government policy. The Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized political boycotts as protected expressive conduct under the First Amendment. Congress should not create new mechanisms that chill, discourage, or penalize Americans for engaging in lawful political advocacy.

At a time when the Israeli government faces growing international scrutiny over allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity, apartheid, genocide, forced displacement, starvation of civilians, attacks on medical facilities and humanitarian workers, and the mistreatment of Palestinian detainees, Congress should be defending the constitutional rights of Americans to advocate for accountability rather than restricting those rights.

Oppose Amendment 362

Similarly, we urge the Committee to reject Amendment 362, offered by Representatives Gottheimer and Tenney, which would require the Secretary of Defense to certify that no Department of Defense contractor participates in the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement targeting Israel. This amendment would effectively impose a political litmus test on federal contractors based on their participation in or support for a constitutionally protected form of political expression. Americans should not be denied government contracting opportunities because of their views on Israel, Palestine, or any other political issue. Congress should not use the NDAA to penalize peaceful advocacy or condition access to federal contracts on adherence to a particular political viewpoint.

Support Amendment 2

We also urge the Committee to make Amendment 2 in order for floor consideration. Offered by Representatives Thomas Massie (R-KY), Ro Khanna (D-CA), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Jesús "Chuy" Garcia (D-IL), and Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Amendment 2 would strike Section 219, formerly Section 224, the United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative. Section 219 would establish a framework for expanded U.S.-Israel defense technology cooperation, research and development partnerships, intelligence coordination, and defense-industrial integration across a range of emerging military technologies.

At a time when the Israeli government faces international scrutiny and legal challenges regarding its genocidal actions in Gaza and its illegal occupations in the West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria, Congress should not be offering Israel deeper military and technological integration. Instead, Congress should be exercising oversight, promoting accountability, and carefully evaluating whether such entanglements serve American interests and values.

Amendment 2 would preserve congressional oversight and future policy flexibility while allowing a full debate on the merits of the proposal.

For these reasons, CAIR respectfully urges the House Rules Committee to reject Amendment 151, reject Amendment 362, make Amendment 2 in order for floor consideration, and allow the House to debate measures that protect constitutional rights, strengthen accountability, and preserve congressional oversight.

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Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,

Robert S. McCaw
Government Affairs Department Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

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