

For Immediate Release (photos below)

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At DC Forum AZM United Jewish Democrats & Republicans on Bipartisan Support for Israel and Zionism

(December 14, 2018) - Jewish Democrats and Republicans united on bipartisan support for Israel and Zionism at the Washington Forum of the American Zionist Movement (AZM), held at the US Capitol on Wednesday, December 12, 2018.

Keynote remarks were delivered by Senate Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) and Representative Lee M. Zeldin (R- NY) and the program featured the first-ever joint appearance by officials of the Republican Jewish Coalition (RJC) and Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA). Jason D. Greenblatt, Assistant to the President & Special Representative for International Negotiations at The White House, and Daniel B. Shapiro, US Ambassador to Israel under President Obama, presented bipartisan diplomatic updates.

“Broad support for the State of Israel is a central tenet of the Zionism Forward campaign launched by the American Zionist Movement (AZM). We gathered together in the Capitol after the midterm elections, and just prior to the new Congress, so our elected officials and community leaders could address how we can unite across party and political lines in support of Israel, whose existence continues to be threatened by her enemies. Now more than ever, and in Israel’s 70th anniversary year, there must be a renewal of the historic broad and bipartisan United States support for Israel”, said AZM President Richard D. Heideman and AZM Executive Director Herbert Block.

AZM presented its AZM 2018 Distinguished Leadership Awards to the bipartisan current and future Chairs of House Foreign Affairs Committee - Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). Other Congressional speakers included Rep. Ted Deutch (D-FL), Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), immediate past Chair of the Democratic National Committee.

For the parties, Halie Soifer, Executive Director of JDCA, and Noah Silverman, Congressional Affairs Director of RJC, presented together. There was a panel discussion of “US Zionist Organizations Across the Spectrum” that featured Karen Paikan Barall (Hadassah) Kenneth Bob (Ameinu), and Morton Klein (ZOA). Legislation regarding Israel and Antisemitism were addressed by Marvin Feuer, AIPAC Director of Policy and Government Affairs; Eric Fusfield, Deputy Director of B’nai B’rith International; Sarah Stern, Founder and President of EMET and, Eric Gallagher, Washington Representative, of the Claims Conference/WJRO. Andrew Borans, CEO of AEPi led a concluding dialogue on achieving “Zero Tolerance Against Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism” in the communities and on campus.

Caption: Jewish Democrats and Republicans united on bipartisan support for Israel and Zionism at the Washington Forum of the American Zionist Movement at the US Capitol on Wednesday, December 12, 2018.

Photo credit: Ron Sachs [High-res photos and additional pictures available upon request]

The American Zionist Movement is comprised of 29 national Jewish Zionist organizations and works across a broad ideological, political and religious spectrum linking the American Jewish community together in support of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people



Senate Democratic Leader Charles E. Schumer



Richard D. Heideman, President, AZM;
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; Rep. Ted Deutch



Jason Greenblatt, Assistant to the President



Richard D. Heideman, President, AZM;
Noah Silverman, Congressional Affairs Director, RJC;
Halie Soifer, Executive Director, JDCA;
Herbert Block, Executive Director, AZM



Halie Soifer, JDCA;
Noah Silverman, RJC