

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Megan Taylor](mailto:Megan_Taylor@heller.senate.gov) |
| May 17, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller, Graham, Cruz, and Rubio Seek to Recognize Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel**

**Washington, D.C.** – U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Ted Cruz (R-TX), and Marco Rubio (R-FL) today introduced a resolution to urge the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the relocation of  the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.‎ In January, Heller introduced the [Jerusalem Embassy and Recognition Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=15329846-E3DD-46F0-A16E-784700B8358B), [legislation](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e6f046db-fd29-462e-86fe-3433921c44b0/Heller%20Cruz%20Rubio%20Jerusalem%20Bill.pdf) that would do just that by forcing the U.S. Department of State to fulfill its promise to relocate the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem or face a penalty.

In 1995, Congress passed the Jerusalem Embassy and Relocation Act, legislation that recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Although the bill became law later that year, the U.S. Embassy was not moved to Jerusalem. In order to encourage the implementation of the law, Heller’s resolution expresses the Sense of the Senate that the U.S. Embassy should be moved to Jerusalem.

“It’s been more than 20 years since legislation to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem became law, yet we have still not fulfilled our commitment to Israel to do so,” **said Heller.** “Our resolution encourages the Administration to act on our decades old promise and finally move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. It also sends a message to our strongest and oldest ally in the Middle East: the United States Senate stands with Israel.”

**The full text of the resolution can be found below:**

*Whereas each sovereign nation, under international law and custom, may designate its own capital;*

*Whereas, since 1950, the city of Jerusalem has been the capital of the State of Israel;*

*Whereas the city of Jerusalem is the seat of Israel’s President, Parliament, Supreme Court, and the site of numerous government ministries and social and cultural institutions;*

*Whereas the city of Jerusalem is the spiritual center of Judaism and is also considered a holy city by members of other religious faiths;*

*Whereas Jerusalem must remain an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected as they have been by Israel since 1967;*

*Whereas, this year, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and reaffirm the congressional sentiment that Jerusalem must remain an undivided city;*

*Whereas every citizen of Israel should have the right to reside anywhere in the undivided city of Jerusalem;*

*Whereas the President and the Secretary of State should publicly affirm as a matter of United States policy that Jerusalem must remain the undivided capital of the State of Israel;*

*Whereas the President should immediately implement the provisions of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) and begin the process of relocating the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem;*

*Whereas United States officials should refrain from any actions that contradict United States law on this subject; and*

*Whereas any official document of the United States Government which lists countries and their capital cities should identify Jerusalem as the capital of Israel: Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—*

*(1) it should be the policy of the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel both de jure and de facto; and*

*(2) the United States Embassy should be relocated to Jerusalem.*

###