



FACT SHEET:

JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL

April 2025

What is a Joint Resolution of Disapproval?

The President is required to [notify](#) Congress when he proposes major arms sales to foreign countries. For Israel and other major non-NATO allies, the President must provide Congress with 15 days to review these arms sales. The Arms Export Control Act, which regulates US arms sales to foreign countries, provides a mechanism for Congress to block any arms transfer through a Joint Resolution of Disapproval (JRD) against the sale. Any member of Congress can file a JRD, and any Senator can force a vote on it on the Senate floor. A JRD must be passed by both chambers of Congress within the specified review period (15 days for Israel) to block a specific arms transfer.

What sales is Congress voting on this week?

Congress is voting on two resolutions from Senator Sanders, [S.J.Res. 33](#) and [S.J.Res. 26](#). S.J.Res. 33 is a resolution to block a sale [announced](#) on February 28 for \$2.04 billion of bombs. This sale was for 35,529 of one type of 2,000 pound bombs and 4,000 of another type of 2,000 pound bombs—in total, nearly 40,000 2,000 pound bombs. President Biden withheld a shipment of 2,000 pound bombs to Israel in May 2024 over concerns about Prime Minister Netanyahu invading Rafah, their potential use in a [densely populated area](#) such as Gaza and their [liability](#) to cause massive civilian casualties. He did not approve of any further sales of 2,000 pound bombs following his May 2024 hold.

S.J.Res. 26 is a resolution to block a sale [announced](#) on February 7 for \$6.75 billion of bombs, bombing guidance kits, and related equipment. The bombs in this sale package are smaller, 500 and 250 pounds. This package also contains GPS guidance kits for the 2000 pound bombs, which would make them more accurate, but still entirely inappropriate for use in dense urban environments.

If passed, what would be the impact of these resolutions?

The Arms Export Control Act allows a 15 day period for congressional review of any arms transfers to Israel. However, the two sales Congress will be voting on this week were notified to Congress in February, meaning the period for congressional review has passed. The vote on these sales will not block the arms transfers to Israel, making these votes purely symbolic.

Furthermore, the package of 2,000 pound bombs was never sent to Congress for congressional review in the first place. The Trump Administration invoked [emergency powers](#) provided under the Arms Export Control Act, which [allow](#) the President to bypass congressional review if the President notifies Congress that "an emergency exists" which requires the sale to be made immediately for US national security interests. According to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, deliveries are estimated to begin in 2026 – raising serious concerns about why the Trump Administration felt the need to use emergency powers to bypass congressional review, given the long timeline on delivery of these weapons.

Even in the unlikely event that these resolutions were to pass both chambers, the Administration would likely argue that they are not legally binding, as one JRD vote falls after the expiration of the 15 day congressional review period, and the second arms sale was never formally submitted to Congress for review in the first place.