US-Israel Relations
Congressman Charles Boustany, Jr., MD
J Street Supplemental Material

As a passionate student of history and grandson of Christian Lebanese immigrants, I am committed to supporting Israel, strengthening ties between our two nations, and advancing American national security interests in the region. During my tenure in Congress, I have always sought to work with groups that promoted a secure, free, and prosperous Israel. I believe our primary goal in the Middle East is ensuring Israel is recognized as an independent Jewish state by its neighbors and the world community.

While I have worked in good faith with a broad range of organizations in order to learn more about the region and to advance our national security interests, not all organizations have represented themselves to me with the same level of candor and openness.

After several meetings with J Street senior leadership discussing a variety of issues – not all of which we agreed upon – I received their endorsement in 2008. Furthermore, I spoke at one of their conventions where I shared my own views on the region and how I approach the U.S.-Israel relationship as a conservative member of the House Republican Caucus.

Unfortunately, within a few years of J Street's establishment, I came to the realization that I had been deliberately misled and in a one instance lied to by the senior leadership of the organization. I refuse to work with any group that conducts itself in this manner.

Upon this revelation, I ordered my staff to cease any contact with the organization and have repeatedly asked J Street to remove any reference to my engagement with them and to remove any web links that give the "appearance" that we have a relationship. To be clear, I have not had any interaction with this organization since September 2010.

While this was a disappointing experience, it was a learning experience. I will continue to work with organizations supporting policies that protect Israel and American national security interests in the region.