

# **H.R. 2215, The Hezbollah Anti-Terrorism Act of 2011 (HATA)**

## *Summary*

**The Hezbollah Anti-Terrorism Act, or HATA**, is legislatively necessary to make certain that no U.S. taxpayer funds benefit the terrorist organization Hezbollah, financially or politically. Modeled on the Hamas-focused Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act (PATA) that Congress passed overwhelmingly in 2006, HATA will set rigorous requirements for the provision of foreign assistance to Lebanon during periods when Hezbollah is part of the majority coalition of the Lebanese government. The goal is to signal to American friends in Lebanon that we will continue to support them, while we vigorously oppose Hezbollah.

**HATA will declare that the policy of the United States is to:**

- (1) Promote the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Lebanon.
- (2) Oppose those organizations, individuals, and countries that practice or support terrorism and use Lebanon as a base to instigate attacks of any kind against the United States, the West, and the State of Israel.
- (3) Promote the rule of law, democracy, the cessation of terrorism and incitement, and good governance in Lebanon.
- (4) Urge members of the international community to avoid contact with and refrain from supporting the terrorist organization Hezbollah until it renounces violence and disarms.

**HATA will prohibit U.S. foreign assistance to a Hezbollah-dependent Lebanese government, i.e., a government in which Hezbollah is part of the majority coalition, UNLESS the President certifies that:**

Hezbollah has ceased its support for terrorism, renounces violence, and disarms - and ceases using Lebanon's territory as a base to launch attacks against the State of Israel;

**OR that**

the Hezbollah-influenced Lebanese government has made demonstrable progress toward dismantling all Hezbollah terrorist and military infrastructure within Lebanon, arresting and bringing all wanted Hezbollah terrorist terrorists to justice, ending all Hezbollah imports of military and terrorism-related equipment, destroying unauthorized Hezbollah arms factories, thwarting and preempting terrorist attacks, and fully cooperating with UNIFIL peace keepers.

The legislation is not meant to end all foreign assistance to Lebanon. There are built-in exceptions for assistance for humanitarian, democracy-building, and educational assistance. There is also an exception for IMET funding, in order to allow for continued contact with the Lebanese military.

**HATA will also provide the President the waiver authority to support necessary American national security initiatives in Lebanon, as well as our friends in Lebanon, while keeping U.S. funds out of the hands of Hezbollah.**