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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS RALLY TO DEFEND BENNETT'S PRO-ISRAEL CREDENTIALS

WASHINGTON—Members of Congress, who have been endorsed by JStreetPAC, rallied in support of congressional candidate Sam Bennett after she was publicly attacked for accepting the pro-Israel, pro-peace PAC's endorsement.

Bennett's opponent, Congressman Charles Dent, alleged at a Jewish community forum in Allentown last Sunday, September 21st that Bennett's commitment to Israel was wrongly called into question by her acceptance of an endorsement from JStreetPAC, the first and only federal Political Action Committee established to promote meaningful American leadership to end the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israel conflicts peacefully and diplomatically.

"My opponent's divisive comments are outrageous. Apparently he fundamentally believes that ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not in Israel's best interest," responded Bennett.

Representatives Bob Filner (D-CA) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), two of the eighteen sitting members of Congress, whom JStreetPAC has endorsed in this election cycle have stepped up to defend Bennett's pro-Israel credentials.

Rep. Filner stated "As a Jewish member of Congress and a staunch supporter of Israel, I am honored to be endorsed – together with Sam Bennett – by JStreetPAC. There is no stronger way to express one's support for Israel than to promote - as JStreetPAC, Sam and I do – a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and American diplomacy to resolve broader conflicts in the Middle East."

Rep. Schakowsky stated: " Sam Bennett has impeccable pro-Israel credentials and shares with me, with JStreetPAC and with the majority of American Jews, a strong belief in increased American diplomacy throughout the Middle East and a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians."

Recently J Street, the PAC's corresponding lobby, released the results of a comprehensive survey of American Jews, which took the pulse of the Jewish community on issues and dynamics central to the debate over America's Middle East policy. Instead of holding the hawkish, hard-line positions expressed by many established Jewish organizations and leaders, the poll found that American Jews actually overwhelmingly support assertive peace efforts and an active U.S. role in helping Israelis and Arabs to resolve their conflicts.

“In her belief that the single most pro-Israel thing someone can do is help to bring about a two-state solution and a comprehensive peace agreement between Israel and her neighbors, Sam Bennett has the support not just of JStreetPAC and these Members of Congress, but also of the vast majority of American Jews and Americans as a whole,” said Jeremy Ben-Ami, JStreetPAC’s executive director.

JStreetPAC has endorsed 32 candidates so far during the 2008 election cycle. The PAC provides political and financial support to candidates for federal office from Americans who believe a new direction in American policy will advance U.S. interests in the Middle East and promote real peace and security for Israel and the region. The PAC is legally unconnected to J Street, a 501(c)(4) lobby and advocacy organization.

Since its inception in April 2008, the J Street organizations have built an online movement of more than 70,000 Americans and amassed more than \$1.5 million in combined political and operational contributions.

More information on J Street and JStreetPAC is available at www.jstreet.org and www.jstreetpac.org.

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