## S.2329 – Shaheen-Rubio

## **Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014**

Targeting Hezbollah's International Financial, Media and Logistical Resources

Hezbollah represents a persistent threat to the United States, our allies, and our interests around the globe. Hezbollah remains responsible for the largest number of American deaths overseas by a terrorist organization. Hezbollah's overseas terrorist operations, including its participation in bombings of Israeli and Jewish institutions in Argentina during the 1990s, support to Shiite insurgents in Iraq, and recent attacks and attempted attacks in Europe, Southeast Asia, and elsewhere demonstrate Hezbollah's lethal intentions and capabilities. Hezbollah's destabilizing activities are ubiquitous in Syria, where Hezbollah has dramatically expanded its material assistance, including combat support, to the regime of President Bashar al-Asad.

The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014 broadens financial sector sanctions against Hezbollah; forces the Administration to make other critical designations regarding that terrorist organization; presses for increased third-country efforts against Hezbollah; and targets Hezbollah's media offshoot al-Manar. In sum, the bill seeks to prevent Hezbollah's global logistics and financial network from operating in order to curtail its domestic and international activities.

## **Bill Provisions:**

- ➤ *Hitting Hezbollah's Financing:* This provision provides the Administration with the tools to pursue foreign banks that knowingly engage in business with Hezbollah and its enablers.
- ➤ Designating al-Manar's Enablers: This provision requires the Administration to identify satellite providers that still carry Hezbollah's television station al-Manar—which has already been designated by the U.S. for terrorism—and explain why those providers have not been penalized for facilitating its broadcasts.
- ➤ Broadening Third-Country Efforts: This provision requires the President to submit a report to Congress within 90 days detailing the countries where Hezbollah maintains financial or logistical support networks, assessing whether the foreign governments are taking adequate steps to root out these networks, and describing Administration engagement to spur greater efforts.
- ➤ Designating Hezbollah as a Narcotics Trafficking Organization: This provision requires the President to report to Congress within 90 days with a determination of whether Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. Given Hezbollah's reported systemic use of narcotics trafficking networks for fundraising, this provision calls attention to the role those activities play in supporting Hezbollah financially.
- ➤ Designating Hezbollah as a Transnational Criminal Organization: This provision requires the President to report to Congress within 90 days with a determination of whether Hezbollah meets the criteria of a transnational criminal organization. Given Hezbollah's reported engagement in money laundering, trafficking in stolen or counterfeit goods, and other criminal activities, this provision calls attention to the role they play in supporting Hezbollah financially.