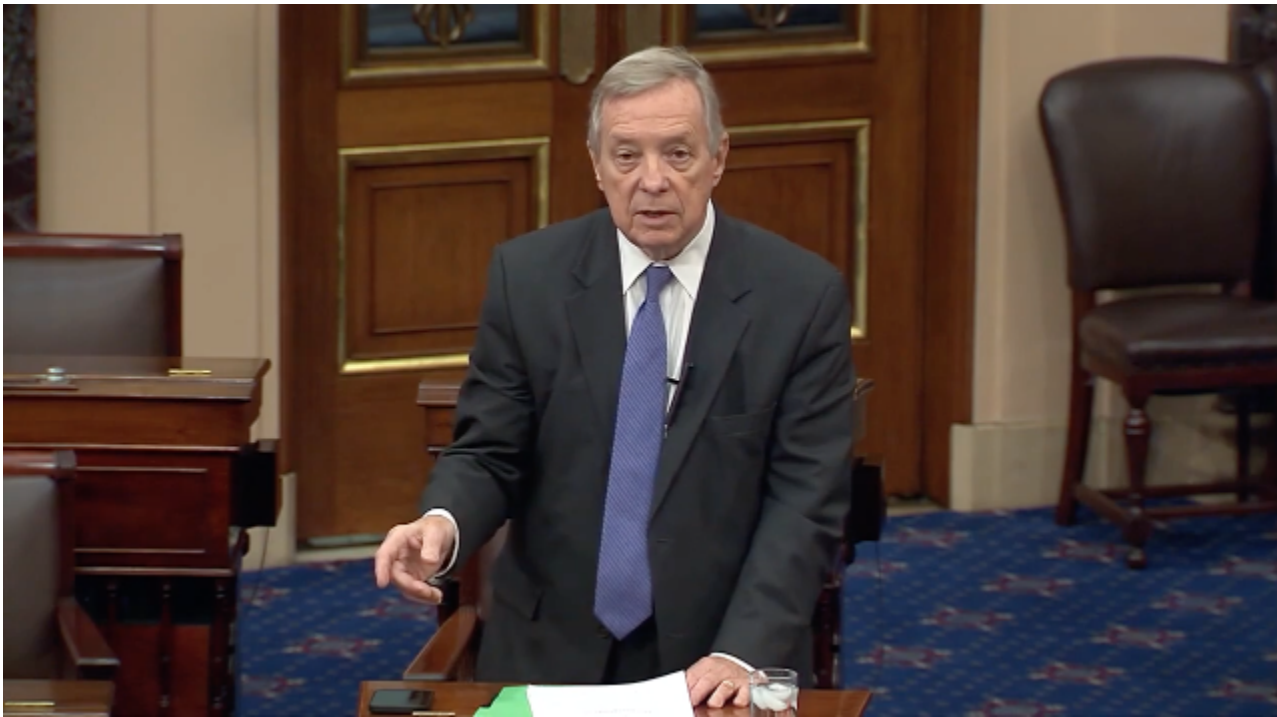


Durbin Statement On Senate Confirmation Of Jack Lew To Serve As U.S. Ambassador To Israel

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WASHINGTON – U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) today released the following statement after the Senate confirmed Jack Lew to serve as the United States Ambassador to Israel:

“The recent terrorist attack in Israel and ensuing overlapping challenges in the region are a reminder of the importance of having top American diplomats at our embassies. Unfortunately, some Republican Senators have continued to block the confirmation of highly qualified U.S. ambassadors from key posts around the world. I was pleased to support Jack Lew’s confirmation and hope he will work with urgency to bring home the

remaining American hostages, provide humanitarian relief for innocent civilians in Gaza, and pursue a long term two-state solution that brings a desperately overdue path out of continued conflict in the region.”