



Advocacy Update

Sent July 28, 2010

Update: Success in Freezing Conversion Bill

On July 21, just prior to the Knesset's adjournment, a vote on the bill proposed by MK David Rotem, which would give the full authority for conversions to the Chief Rabbinate, was prevented. The outcry from tens of thousands of Jews of all streams from around Israel and the Diaspora demonstrated opposition to the bill. In her letter to the "Friends of IRAC" in the July 26th issue of *The Pluralist*, Israel Religious Action Center Director Anat Hoffman wrote, "the suspension of the conversion bill happened in large part due to your astounding response."

Haaretz.com reported that the Israeli government, based on instructions from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, agreed in a compromise with the Israel Reform and Masorti (Conservative) movements to a six-month freeze on bringing the bill to a vote in the Knesset and to halt IRAC's Supreme Court petition for recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions. The freeze will provide time for a committee led by the chairman of the Jewish Agency, Natan Sharansky, to work with leaders of the Reform and Masorti movements to amend the current bill.

Go to the [Union for Reform Judaism website](#) for more information and/or the [Religious Action Center \(RAC\) website](#) for a lighter view of the issue.

Urgent: Reauthorization of Child Nutrition Legislation

This congressional session is quickly coming to a close. Urge your members of Congress to reauthorize the Child Nutrition and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Act. This bill is a primary response to child hunger, child obesity, and reducing poverty in the U.S., through the national school lunch and breakfast programs, summer food programs, and the WIC nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

Visit the [RAC website](#) now for more information and to contact your members of Congress to reauthorize the child nutrition legislation.