

BILL SUMMARY

Nov. 15, 2006

Promoting Anti-Terrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act

The House has passed landmark legislation that opens new opportunities for the United States and Israel to strengthen their joint cooperative homeland security efforts. This legislation represents a key success in AIPAC's efforts to further strengthen the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership. The bill still awaits action by the Senate.

The legislation, known as the Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act, creates a new mechanism in the Department of Homeland Security for the U.S. and Israel to jointly develop homeland security technologies and share best practices in the field of counterterrorism.

The House version of the bill (H.R. 4942) has been lead by House Homeland Security Committee Chair Peter King (R-NY) and Ranking Member Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MI), and Emergency Preparedness and Science and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Ranking Member Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ). The Senate bill (S. 1554) has been championed by Senate Homeland Security Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Joseph Lieberman (D-CT).

KEY PROVISIONS:

- The bill establishes an Office of International Cooperative Programs within the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security responsible for:
 - Developing mechanisms and legal frameworks to support international cooperative activity for homeland security research
 - Matching U.S. entities engaged in homeland security research with non-U.S. entities conducting similar research
 - Convening periodic international homeland security technology workshops and conferences
- Foreign partners named in the bill include Israel, Britain, Canada, Australia, Singapore, and other allies in the global war on terror.
- The House version includes authorization for \$25 million for three successive years. The Senate version authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to spend the funds it believes are necessary to implement the program.

- The legislation requires foreign partners to match U.S. contributions through direct funding or by providing staff, facilities, material or equipment to be used on the joint project.