LOBBYING AGENDA

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THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
### SUPPORT SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

**IN THE SENATE**
Support **$3.3 billion** in U.S. security assistance to Israel and **$500 million** in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2021 **without any added conditions**, as called for in the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). And, support a **robust overall foreign aid budget**.

**IN THE HOUSE**
Support **$3.3 billion** in U.S. security assistance to Israel and **$500 million** in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2021 **without any added conditions**, as called for in the 2016 MOU. And, support a **robust overall foreign aid budget**.

### EXTEND THE IRANIAN ARMS EMBARGO

**IN THE SENATE**
Cosponsor a **bipartisan resolution**—authored by Sens. Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV)—supporting efforts to extend the U.N. arms embargo on Iran.

**IN THE HOUSE**
Sign a **bipartisan letter** to Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo—authored by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Michael McCaul (R-TX)—supporting efforts to extend the U.N. arms embargo on Iran.

### STAND WITH ISRAEL AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

**IN THE SENATE**
Sign a **bipartisan letter** to the Secretary of State—authored by Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rob Portman (R-OH)—encouraging continued support for the U.S. and Israel against illegitimate attacks by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

**IN THE HOUSE**
Sign a **bipartisan letter** to the Secretary of State—authored by Reps. Elaine Luria (D-VA) and Mike Gallagher (R-WI)—encouraging continued support for the U.S. and Israel against illegitimate attacks by the ICC.
The United States provides security assistance to Israel because it advances American interests and regional objectives. Given growing security threats to Israel, it is essential that America maintain its commitment to the Jewish state. American assistance helps ensure Israel has the means necessary to defend itself—by itself—against growing threats. For decades, both Republican and Democratic administrations have provided security assistance to Israel without linking our aid to specific Israeli policies. Such conditioning would undermine U.S. national security interests.

**Israel is a capable partner on the front lines.**

Israel is a reliable, stable, democratic ally that shares our values in a highly volatile, strategically important region of the world. Israel serves as a capable Middle East partner on the front lines against our shared enemies. Moreover, Israel willingly offers its innovation, experience and ingenuity to improve all facets of American life, including its expertise in critical 21st-century arenas.

As America redeployes more of our forces out of the Middle East, we will increasingly rely on allies to play a greater role in defending our vital interests. While no ally is as willing and able to do so as Israel, our aid remains critical.

**Israel faces growing threats from Iran and its terrorist proxies.**

Israel is confronting growing security threats from its north, east and south. Iran provides advanced weapons to its terrorist proxies to attack the Jewish state from six fronts—Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Iran itself. These groups are preparing for war with Israel by embedding terrorists and weapons among civilian populations. Hezbollah continues to amass an arsenal larger and more sophisticated than many national armies, while Hamas launched more than 1,500 rockets at Israel in 2019 alone.

**Israel is an ally ready and willing to defend itself by itself.**

Israel is unique in its insistence on defending itself by itself. But growing threats require Israel to spend more on defense as a percentage of GDP than any other industrialized nation. The rising costs of advanced weaponry compound Israel’s challenges. U.S. security assistance helps provide Israel with the resources needed to remain strong and deter conflict by making it clear to potential foes that they cannot destroy the Jewish state.

**American interests are undermined by new conditions or cuts to U.S. assistance to Israel.**

Political conditions on U.S. security assistance to Israel, or cuts to America's commitment, would hurt both the U.S. and Israel by jeopardizing the security of a strategic ally and setting back chances for peace. The U.S. provides assistance not as a favor to Israel, but because keeping Israel strong means U.S. interests are actively advanced in a key region of the world at a relatively inexpensive cost. Conditioning or reducing U.S. support would inevitably create doubts about the stability of America’s commitment to the Jewish state—emboldening Israel’s enemies and causing ordinary Israelis to question the wisdom of taking additional risks for peace. History has shown that peace is best advanced when U.S.-Israel relations are strong.

**Foreign aid is a key element of U.S. national security strategy.**

At just one percent of the budget, U.S. foreign aid is a cost-effective and relatively small investment that saves U.S. taxpayer money. Spending on foreign aid today is cheaper than military dollars that may need to be spent tomorrow.

**Legislative Ask**

- **In the Senate,** support $3.3 billion in U.S. security assistance to Israel and $500 million in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2021 **without any added conditions,** as called for in the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Additionally, support a **robust overall foreign aid budget.**

- **In the House,** support $3.3 billion in U.S. security assistance to Israel and $500 million in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2021 **without any added conditions,** as called for in the 2016 MOU. Additionally, support a **robust overall foreign aid budget.**
The world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism is on the brink of being able to import and export advanced weapons under international law. In less than 8 months—on Oct. 18, 2020—the U.N. arms embargo on Iran will expire. While benefiting U.S. adversaries, this development would make an already chaotic Middle East even more dangerous for America and Israel. The United States must ensure that Iran is not given the green light to stockpile advanced weapons and accelerate its weapons proliferation to terrorist proxies across the Middle East.

The world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism cannot be allowed to buy and sell advanced weapons at will.

Iran—the principal obstacle to peace and stability in the Middle East—has already proven how aggressive it can be without access to international arms imports. Removing these restrictions will only further embolden the regime, adding fuel to the fire in the region. Moreover, this weapons proliferation could exacerbate the arms race between Iran and its neighbors, further threatening the Middle East.

The Iranian regime will soon be allowed to import tanks, armored combat vehicles, large-caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missile systems.

U.S. adversaries benefit from ending the embargo.

In addition to benefiting Iran and its terrorist proxies—including Hezbollah, Hamas, Assad, the Houthis and its Iraqi militias—this development will also greatly benefit Russia and China, at the expense of the U.S., Israel and our other allies in the region. Russia and China will be able to sell weapons to Iran without violating international law, resulting in more advanced weapons reaching Iran’s terrorist proxies, which directly threaten Americans and Israelis.

Iran has already strengthened its military ties with Russia and China in recent years. The regime is reportedly considering a $10 billion deal to import advanced Russian tanks, artillery systems, planes and helicopters.

Preventing advanced weapons from reaching terrorists.

The United States, together with our allies and other nations, must strive for strict enforcement of the embargo, including intercepting Iranian arms shipments. The United States must also insist that the U.N. Security Council extend the arms embargo. Furthermore, the United States must enforce existing sanctions against Iranian arms imports and exports to incentivize other countries to help prevent the spread of advanced weapons to Iran’s terrorist proxies.

Toomey-Rosen Senate resolution.

- Urges the international community to fully enforce and extend the arms embargo on Iran.
- Further calls to extend U.N. restrictions on foreign assistant to Iran’s ballistic missile program—currently set to expire in 2023.

Engel-McCaul House letter.

Urges the Secretary of State to:
- Work to extend the embargo at the U.N.
- Make clear that U.S. sanctions on Iranian arms transfers remain in place.
- Extend travel restrictions on Iranian officials that are also set to expire.

In the Senate, cosponsor a bipartisan resolution—authored by Sens. Pat Toomey (R-PA) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV)—supporting efforts to extend the U.N. arms embargo on Iran.

In the House, sign a bipartisan letter to Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo—authored by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Michael McCaul (R-TX)—supporting efforts to extend the U.N. arms embargo on Iran.
Israel’s enemies have long extended their war against the Jewish state beyond military and terrorist attacks to the diplomatic and economic arenas. These efforts are intended to weaken, isolate and delegitimize the Jewish state. Today, they are trying to utilize one of the newest international institutions, the International Criminal Court (ICC), to vilify both Israel and the United States. Over the past year, the ICC prosecutor has wrongly sought to try both nations for alleged “war crimes” and is committing a grave miscarriage of justice and politicizing the court. The U.S. and Israel must stand together against this threat.

BACKGROUND.
The ICC was founded as an international tribunal to deal with the most serious international crimes—genocide, crimes against humanity, crimes of aggression and war crimes—in countries without a national justice system willing or able to act. None of these conditions pertain to America or Israel—both of which have robust, independent legal systems that conduct genuine inquiries into alleged violations of the rules of war. From the outset, Democratic and Republican presidents chose not to join the ICC as they feared politically motivated trials that could impact our citizens and soldiers. Israel made a similar calculation. Today, both face the precise threat they feared, despite the fact that neither the U.S. nor Israel accepts its jurisdiction.

The ICC is also overstepping its mandate because it has chosen to treat “Palestine” as a state that can cede its jurisdiction to the ICC. However, the Palestinians do not meet the criteria necessary to have standing with the court.

DISCRIMINATES AGAINST ISRAEL.
The ICC is pursuing an unjust, outrageous investigation against Israel while ignoring cases that actually warrant its attention. Rather than being motivated to pursue this case out of a sense of justice, the ICC is adopting the political agenda of Israel’s foes.

The impact of an ICC case extends far beyond politics. Past and current Israeli officials and citizens could face secret arrest warrants or summons to appear while in ICC member countries—severely curtailing their freedom to travel.

REWARDS PALESTINIAN LEADERS FOR NOT NEGOTIATING.
The ICC’s recent actions came specifically at the request of the Palestinian Authority. If it takes up the case, the ICC will set back the cause of peace by rewarding Palestinian leaders’ intransigence and refusal to return to direct negotiations with Israel.

The U.S. must stand against the Palestinian effort to criminalize political differences with Israel and impose outcomes in the courtroom that need to be achieved at the negotiating table.

CONGRESS HAS LED THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE JEWISH STATE.
Congress and successive administrations have sought to deepen bilateral economic ties and protect Israel against efforts to discriminate against the Jewish state at international organizations. Congress must continue to stand by our ally Israel as it faces ongoing discrimination in international forums.

BIPARTISAN LETTERS: CARDIN-PORTMAN IN THE SENATE, LURIA-GALLAGHER IN THE HOUSE.
• Oppose ICC efforts to target Israel.
• Urge full U.S. support of Israel against this threat.
• Oppose efforts to bypass direct negotiations by going to international organizations.

In the Senate, sign a bipartisan letter to the Secretary of State—authored by Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Rob Portman (R-OH)—encouraging continued support for the U.S. and Israel against illegitimate attacks by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

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