

April 29, 2016

83 senators sign letter urging 'robust' defense package for Israel

An AIPAC-backed letter to President Barack Obama urging a more “robust” defense package for Israel reportedly garnered the signatures of 83 senators on Monday. The letter was initiated by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Chris Coons (D-DE). Israel and the United States are currently negotiating a ten-year defense assistance package, or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to follow the current package set to expire next year, which guaranteed an average of \$3 billion annually. It is widely expected that the next package will be significantly larger. JTA reports that, the letter does not specify an amount to increase the overall defense assistance package, but notes that Congress is already considering increasing it to \$500 million annually and it budgets for missile defense cooperation, which has until now been considered separately from the defense package.

Our Synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at synagogue@aipac.org or by visiting www.aipac.org.