

December 23, 2016

Key U.S.-Israel Cybersecurity Legislation Signed Into Law

On Dec. 16, President Barack Obama signed the United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016 (H. R. 5877) into law. Passed by the House on the Nov. 29 and the Senate on Dec. 10, the bill permanently authorizes an already-existing three-year joint program between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Israel's Ministry of Public Security, and expands it to include cybersecurity cooperation. Currently, the focus of the program is wearable technologies for first responders. The bill was cosponsored by Reps. John Ratcliffe (R-TX) and Jim Langevin (D-RI) following a trip to Israel last May, where they met with Israeli cybersecurity leaders in the public and private spheres. "Israel is a vital strategic partner, and I'm pleased to be working closely with Rep. Langevin to preserve and strengthen this important bond through joint cybersecurity efforts," said Ratcliffe. "My trip to Israel with Congressman Ratcliffe was an illuminating experience, and reinforced my belief that our countries have much to learn from one another when it comes to cybersecurity," said Langevin.