

July 29, 2016

Bipartisan Senate Letter Urges Full Missile Defense Funding for Israel

Thirty-six senators, including 19 Republicans and 17 Democrats, sent a bipartisan letter on July 26 to their colleagues working to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in support of fully funding U.S.-Israel missile defense for the 2017 fiscal year. Authored by Sens. Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), the letter states the senators' belief that "fully funding U.S.-Israeli missile defense programs at \$601 million, as funded in the House-passed NDAA, is a level that will allow Israel to fully meet its national security requirements." The Senate-passed version of the bill only authorizes around \$281 million in missile defense funding, while the House-passed version includes \$601 million, \$320 million more than last year. The letter also advocates for a "bicameral, bipartisan" approach to fund bilateral missile defense programs including Iron Dome, David's Sling and the Arrow Weapon System.

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.