

July 8, 2016

## **Key Senate Committee Votes Unanimously to Increase Military Aid to Israel**

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted unanimously on June 29 to approve the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2017 (S.3117). The bill includes a \$300 million increase in military assistance to Israel over both last year's figure of \$3.1 billion and the administration's budget request for this year. State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) spearheaded the effort to include increased aid to Israel. "We have no better friend than Israel, and they are in the middle of the toughest neighborhood in the world." said Graham. Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) also played vital roles in garnering bipartisan support for the bill. The House Appropriations Committee is expected to markup its version of the bill next week.

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](mailto:synagogue@aipac.org) or by visiting [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org).