

July 21, 2017

House Committee Approves Pro-Israel Measures

On July 19, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee included key provisions in the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2018 that support America's ally Israel. The bill provides \$3.1 billion in security assistance to Israel—fully meeting America's commitment under the current Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries. It also extends America's authority to stockpile weapons in Israel until the end of 2019 and provides Israel with \$7.5 million for assisting with refugee resettlement. The bill and its accompanying report also include additional important provisions that: address rampant anti-Israel bias at the United Nations; maintain key funding restrictions on the Palestinian Authority (PA); restrict Palestinians' diplomatic representation in the United States and cut off aid if the Palestinians initiate or actively support an International Criminal Court investigation against Israel; maintain stringent prior-year restrictions on U.N. Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) funds, including an analysis of the current definition of Palestinian refugees used by the agency; provide funding for important people-to-people reconciliation programs that promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians; and continue provisions that mandate reporting on sanctions applied against Iran for its ballistic missile activities.

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.