

May 12, 2017

Critical Pro-Israel Funding Contained in Omnibus Bill

On May 4, the Senate joined the House of Representatives in passing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which includes key provisions to help Israel address critical security challenges. The bill provides \$3.1 billion plus an additional \$75 million in overall security assistance to Israel. It also contains \$600.7 million for vital joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs, representing a \$113 million increase over FY 2016. The legislation provides for a majority of these procurement funds to be spent in the United States. In addition, Congress included \$42.5 million for continued U.S.-Israel joint development of technologies to address the complex challenge of locating, mapping and destroying terrorist tunnel networks. The bill also includes a provision that reduces aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) on a dollar-for-dollar basis for any support the PA, the Palestine Liberation Organization and any successor or affiliated organization provides to Palestinian terrorists or their families. Congress further included \$2 million for U.S.-Israel energy cooperation and \$11.8 million for a water desalination grant program that now incentivizes cooperation with Israel.