

September 15, 2017

Key Senate Committee Advances Pro-Israel Measures

On Sept. 7, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced a number of pro-Israel measures in the Fiscal Year 2018 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill. The bill provides \$3.1 billion in annual security assistance to Israel and provides Israel with \$7.5 million to aid refugee resettlement. The legislation maintains key restrictions on assistance to the Palestinians and adopts the Taylor Force Act, bipartisan legislation to cut funding that benefits the Palestinian Authority due to its practice of providing payments to terrorists and their families. The legislation includes new language to address the anti-Israel bias at United Nations (U.N.) organizations, such as five percent withholding of any U.S. funds to a specialized agency or other U.N. entity that takes official action against the national security interest of the United States or U.S. allies, including Israel. Funding can only be released if the Secretary of State determines that the agency is taking steps to address the action that resulted in the reduction. The measure also maintains stringent restrictions on U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) funds.

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.