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Senate Moves to Codify Obama-Era Aid Package to Israel

A Senate panel approved a bill on Tuesday endorsing a decade-long aid package to Israel brokered by the Obama administration, as reported by the Jerusalem Post. The U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018 authorizes a memorandum of understanding negotiated in 2016 between the two governments which will provide Israel with \$38 billion in military aid between 2019 and 2028. A bipartisan majority of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed the legislation, allowing it to proceed to the full Senate floor. The bill also authorized the president to establish a US-Israeli counter-drone program, expand collaboration on the peaceful exploration of space, and produce an assessment on Israel's precision-guided defense needs with respect to threats from Hamas in Gaza, and Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria.