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Contact: **Josh Block** (202) 997-4641
Jennifer Cannata (202) 639-5229

AIPAC APPLAUDS HOUSE PASSAGE OF GROUNDBREAKING HOMELAND SECURITY BILL

AIPAC President Howard Friedman and Executive Director Howard Kohr released the following statement regarding the passage of H. R. 4942, the "Promoting Antiterrorism Through International Cooperation Act."

"AIPAC applauds the House passage of groundbreaking homeland security legislation which strengthens anti-terror cooperation between the United States, Israel and other nations. The bill was approved unanimously by the House on Tuesday and now awaits consideration by the Senate.

"This legislation, strongly supported by AIPAC, ensures that the U.S. is better able to leverage the anti-terrorism expertise of our leading allies in the global war against terror. It provides a framework for expanded homeland security collaboration and creates increased opportunities for the United States and Israel to work together to address the common terrorist threat.

"The bill establishes a new office and grant program under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security tasked with fostering cooperation between the homeland security research and development communities in the U.S. and abroad. Israel is among the partners designated in the bill, which also includes the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Singapore and other allies in the global war on terror.

"AIPAC commends the leadership of the bill's sponsors, House Homeland Security Committee Chair Peter King (R-NY) and Ranking Member Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MI), for their efforts to secure the passage of this groundbreaking legislation. House Emergency Preparedness and Science and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Ranking Member Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-NJ) also played key roles in the bill's passage. Similar legislation currently under consideration by the Senate is sponsored by Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ranking Member Joseph Lieberman (D-CT).

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