

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2007

Contact: **Josh Block** (202) 997-4614
Jennifer Cannata (202) 639-5229

AIPAC Applauds House Passage of Critical Homeland Security Legislation

AIPAC President Howard Friedman and Executive Director Howard Kohr released the following statement regarding the passage of H.R. 884, the Promoting Anti-Terrorism Cooperation Through Technology and Science (PACTS) Act.

“AIPAC applauds today’s overwhelming House passage of critical anti-terror legislation that strengthens cooperation between the United States, Israel and other key allies. The bill was approved by a vote of 396-16 and now awaits consideration by the Senate.

“H.R. 884 would establish an office of international cooperation within the Department of Homeland Security to foster joint projects between the United States and key allies in the war on terror, including Israel, a world leader in technological innovation and a country with a breath of experience in homeland security. It would match U.S. entities engaged in homeland security research with non-U.S. entities conducting similar research and would convene periodic international homeland security technology workshops and conferences.

“As Congress continues to seek innovative ways of protecting citizens and combating terrorists, it is increasingly looking to its friends overseas. The passage of this bill strengthens our relationship with Israel and other key allies in the global war on terror and constitutes a critical step toward increasing America’s ability to respond effectively to terrorist threats and better protect American lives.

“AIPAC commends the leadership of the bill’s sponsors, House Homeland Security Committee Ranking Member Peter King (R-NY) and Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MI), for their efforts to secure the passage of this groundbreaking legislation. Similar legislation currently under consideration by the Senate is championed by Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chair Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) and Ranking Member Susan Collins (R-ME).”

###

Consistently ranked as the most influential foreign policy lobbying organization on Capitol Hill, AIPAC is an American membership organization that seeks to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. For more than 50 years, AIPAC has been working with Congress to build a strong, vibrant relationship between the U.S. and Israel. With more than 100,000 members across the United States, AIPAC works throughout the country to improve and strengthen that relationship by supporting U.S.-Israel military, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation.