

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AIPAC Applauds Senate Move Voicing Bipartisan Support for Israel's Quest for Peace

AIPAC released the following statement praising the United State Senate's letter highlighting American support for Israel and her peace efforts sent today to the President by 77 Senators including presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Senator John McCain (R-AZ), and reinforced by an additional letter from presumptive Democratic Presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama (D-IL). The letters also reaffirm Israel's right to self-defense and call on the Arab states to demonstrate their support for historic compromise and reconciliation with the Jewish State on the part of the Palestinians, while isolating Hamas and other rejectionists.

AIPAC applauds the U.S. Senate's move Tuesday to send a strong bipartisan signal of American support for Israel's quest for peace, and calling on Arab states to fulfill their responsibilities to the peace process by reaching out to Israel and supporting the moderate Palestinian leadership financially and politically, while isolating Hamas and other terrorist and rejectionist elements.

Co-authored by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and signed by 77 members of the Senate including Senator McCain (R-AZ) and reinforced by an additional message from Senator Obama (D-IL), the letters also reaffirm American support for Israel's right to self-defense and underscore U.S. support for the State of Israel in her quest for peace and security.

Demonstrating Congress' bipartisan solidarity with Israel in the face continued hostility, the Senators also call for the United States to remain in Israel's corner at United Nations – where one-sided, anti-Israel sentiment is rampant.

Saying the United States must continue our strong support for the Jewish state in the face of continued threats, the over three-quarters of the Senate tells the President, "We urge you to continue your efforts to advance the Israel/Palestinian negotiations, to support Israel's right to self defense against the growing threats from Gaza, and to demand that the Arab states do more to support those negotiations."

"The Senate has spoken with a clear and unified voice – AIPAC applauds their powerful call to support Israel in her quest for peace with all her Arab neighbors, while recognizing that our ally's security and their right and responsibility of self-defense is paramount in that dangerous and unpredictable part of the world," said Josh Block, AIPAC's spokesman.

To view a copy of the Senate letter please visit our website at:
<http://www.aipac.org/Publications/SourceMaterialsCongressionalAction/SenateLetterJune2008.pdf>

To view a copy of Senator Obama's letter please visit:
<http://www.aipac.org/Publications/SourceMaterialsCongressionalAction/ObamaLetter062408.pdf>

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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.