

PRESS RELEASE

Sept. 12, 2018

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House Adopts Important Israel Security Assistance Legislation

AIPAC applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for adopting the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018 (S. 2497). This key legislation seeks to ensure that Israel has the means to defend itself, by itself, against growing threats—most significantly Iran’s presence on its northern border. This bipartisan bill authorizes agreed-upon increases in Israel’s security assistance. It encourages expanding U.S. weapons stockpiles in Israel and advancing U.S.-Israel cooperation in anti-drone technologies and space.

Major provisions include:

- Authorizing U.S. security assistance to Israel, as called for in the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on security assistance.
- Extending authorization for the U.S. War Reserve Stockpile in Israel by five years and authorizing an additional \$1 billion in stocks.
- Urging the NASA administrator to continue working with the Israel Space Agency to identify and cooperatively pursue peaceful space exploration and science initiatives.
- Authorizing the president to establish a counter-drone program with Israel.

AIPAC appreciates the leadership of House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-NY), along with the authors of the bill, Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Chris Coons (D-DE).

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