

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

October 21, 2020

The Honorable Adam Smith
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Inhofe and Smith, and Ranking Members Reed and Thornberry,

As National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference negotiations commence, we are writing to draw your attention to key provisions in the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that support the U.S.-Israel relationship. We ask that you continue to support close cooperation between the United States and our strategic ally Israel by including the below provisions in the final NDAA.

U.S.-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act

We urge you to include Subtitle H, Sections 6290-6299 of the Senate-passed NDAA, which fully funds security assistance to Israel as agreed to in the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, in the final bill. Additionally, we call on you to support provisions that would increase bilateral cooperation on a variety of urgent issues confronting our military and nation, such as COVID-19. Section 6299F, a version of S.3722 Expanding Medical Partnerships with Israel to Lessen Dependence on China (EMPIL-DOC) Act, directly addresses the impact of COVID-19 and establishes a viable program to develop technologies to combat the virus and prevent or mitigate future outbreaks. The House passed H.R. 1837, a bill similar to Subtitle H, in 2019 via voice vote. That bill had nearly 300 cosponsors.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Cooperation

The House NDAA contains a grant program that would increase U.S.-Israel cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in Section 736. Including that provision will facilitate research into the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD.

U.S.-Israel Operations-Technology Working Group

Finally, we hope you will support the inclusion of Section 1286 of the Senate NDAA, which would establish a United-States-Israel Operations-Technology Working Group. The Working Group would facilitate bilateral cooperation on research and development in emerging fields of

military technology and keep U.S. innovation one-step ahead of our adversaries. Israeli expertise in critical fields such as directed energy, robotics, autonomous systems, space, and cyber only stand to benefit the U.S. military.

Expanding military and civilian cooperation between the United States and Israel will give us a leg up when countering emerging threats. We hope to work with you through the conference process to ensure these provisions are included in the final NDAA.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



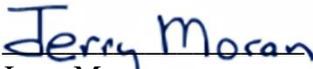
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Ben Sasse
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator

/s/ Robert B. Casey, Jr.

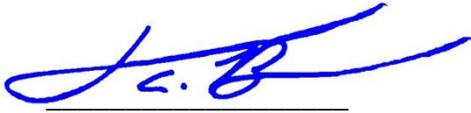
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator