



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0605**

February 27, 2023

Dear Secretary Austin,

We greatly appreciate your efforts to advance U.S.-Israel defense cooperation – a critical investment that secures our national security interests. At a time when our adversaries are growing dangerously more emboldened and capable, we strongly believe that enhancing U.S.-Israel security cooperation is a strategic imperative.

On July 14, 2022, President Biden and former Prime Minister Lapid signed the Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration. The Jerusalem Declaration reaffirmed America's steadfast commitment to strengthen Israel's ability to defend itself by itself and promised to fully support currently pledged aid to Israel.

Cooperative missile defense programs such as the Iron Dome, David's Sling and Arrow are critical to ensuring Israel can meet the growing threats posed by adversaries such as Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Moreover, Tehran has substantially expanded its regional terrorist proxy network in recent years and can threaten Israel not only from its own territory, but also from a vast crescent of territory stretching from Yemen, through Iraq and Syria, to Lebanon. Iran has aggressively invested in its terrorist proxies over the years, most notably financing Lebanese Hezbollah today to the tune of \$700 million annually and transferring precision-guided munitions and drones to its surrogates. At the same time, Tehran's intensified military partnership with Russia portends the delivery of additional advanced Russian systems that can threaten Israel. Given the increasing sophistication of threats to Israel, we are concerned that we may be underestimating the quantity of weapons Israel will require to defend itself.

More generally, we believe it is imperative that the U.S. and Israel – two of the world's advanced technology juggernauts – work together to ensure we prevail over our adversaries in critically important high-tech security sectors. As you know, our cooperative missile defense programs have served American interests by saving lives, preventing conflict escalation and promoting regional stability. Our collaboration with Israel incorporates many other Department of Defense programs, including counter-unmanned aerial systems and anti-tunneling technology. We believe that by working together with our allies in Israel we can secure critical American achievements in emerging technology sectors such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, directed energy, automation, and space.

Given these increased threats and multitude of mutually-beneficial opportunities to enhance our security, we, as members of the House Armed Services Committee, request an assessment on the following key areas:

1. Israel's short- and long-term security threats, including an analysis of the capabilities of terrorist groups and regional actors hostile to Israel;
2. Israeli capabilities to meet and defend against these threats, as well as any shortfalls or capability gaps; and
3. An assessment of the potential for increased U.S.-Israel defense collaboration, particularly in emerging technologies including but not limited to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, directed energy, automation, and space.


Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. We look forward to your response.



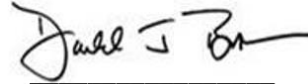
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



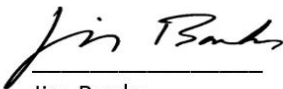
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Mark Alford  
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Nicholas LaLota  
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Donald Norcross  
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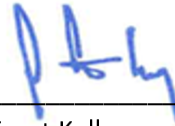
Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



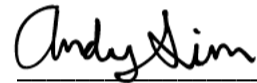
Chrissy Houlahan  
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Ronny Jackson  
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Nancy Mace  
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