

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee for Defense
Committee on Appropriations
H-405 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee for Defense
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum,

We greatly appreciate your efforts to advance U.S.-Israel defense cooperation – a critical investment that provides security and stability to the Middle East. Israel will require significant investment in Fiscal Year 2024 to defend herself against aerial threats posed by a wide array of hostile adversaries. As you begin to work on the FY 2024 Defense Appropriations Bill, we respectfully request \$500 million for U.S.-Israel missile defense programs, which is in keeping with the agreed upon ten-year Memorandum of Understanding and will be the amount requested in the President's FY 2024 Missile Defense Administration Budget.

We request that the \$500 million should be divided into the following accounts, \$200 million of which for Procurement, and \$300 million for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E).

Procurement:

- Continued co-production and procurement of Iron Dome system components and interceptors;
- Continued co-production and procurement of David's Sling system components; and
- Continued co-production and procurement of Arrow Weapon System components and interceptors.

RDT&E:

- Continue to develop and upgrade David's Sling, to meet evolving threats, including cruise missile threats; and
- Continue to develop and upgrade the Arrow Weapon System to meet evolving threats.



As you know, these programs are essential to the safety and security of Israel. Prioritizing and ensuring robust funding for these programs is necessary to address the evolving threats posed by Israeli adversaries, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran – all of which are developing more advanced short, medium, and long-range rocket, missile, and drone capabilities. Iran's increasing presence in Syria reaffirms the need for these important defensive technologies. These programs also yield a tremendous return-on-investment for the United States in the form of economic, technological, and military benefits.

Benefits from U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation extend well beyond the Middle East. Our forces face challenges from an emboldened, aggressive, and increasingly militarized Russia, North Korea, and other adversaries, heightening our immediate need for advanced missile defense technology to protect our forward-based forces and key fixed installations. Information sharing and live-fire exercises between the United States and Israel provide important knowledge and readiness for our men and women in uniform. The strength of the Iron Dome has been so significant that in recent years the U.S. Army procured two batteries and tested the system in Guam. In recent months, the U.S. Marine Corps completed a trio of live-fire tests and is moving forward to [adopt](#) a mobile variant of Israel's Iron Dome system.

As we see our enemies more emboldened and their capabilities growing, joint U.S.-Israel security cooperation is needed now more than ever. U.S.-Israel cooperative missile defense programs are a win-win for the United States, as they save lives, prevent conflict escalation and advance U.S. objectives by promoting regional stability and protecting a valuable ally.

During these challenging budgetary times we must prioritize federal funding for programs where federal involvement can have the greatest impact on the safety and security of the American people, our troops, and our allies. These highly advanced missile defense systems have consistently been a key factor in Israel's self-defense and further technological and operational advancements will be crucial moving forward. We want to thank the Committee for its past support and look forward to working with you to sustain and advance the critical partnership between the U.S. and Israel.

Sincerely,


Grace Meng
Member of Congress
Michael Waltz
Member of Congress
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



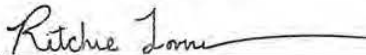
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress




Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress