

House Subcommittee Appropriates U.S.-Israel Missile Defense Systems at Highest Levels Ever

Nearly one billion dollars allocated toward U.S.-Israel missile defense cooperation since 2007

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CONTACT: Aaron Keyak

office: (202) 225-5061

cell: (202) 905-6361

email: aaron.keyak@mail.house.gov

Washington, DC - Representative Steve Rothman (D-NJ), a member of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, released the following statement:

On July 27, 2010, the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives sent a strong message - to our allies and enemies alike - by appropriating more funds than ever before toward joint U.S.-Israel and Israeli missile defense programs. This is only the latest example that when it comes to defense, military, and intelligence cooperation, the relationship between the U.S. and Israel has never been stronger.

Chairman Norm Dicks, myself and all the members of the Defense Subcommittee understand how important it is to be at the cutting edge of anti-missile technology, both to safeguard our own citizens and troops, but also those citizens and troops of our allies and friends such as the people of the Jewish state of Israel.

Given the concern and attention that we are focusing now on every dollar we are expending on behalf of the U.S. taxpayer for all purposes, including the defense of the United States and its allies, it is a mark of the importance of these projects that they were all funded so robustly and fully by our Subcommittee.

The Appropriations Defense Subcommittee has just appropriated \$217.7 million in funding for essential joint U.S.-Israel missile defense programs, which is an increase of \$95.7 million in funds over the original request. I am proud that since 2007, the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee has allocated more than \$750 million in federal funding for the Arrow and David's Sling anti-missile systems. Including this year's allocation of \$205 million toward Israel's Iron Dome program, the Subcommittee has allocated nearly one billion dollars toward these three missile defense systems over the past three years.

I thank President Barack Obama, Chairman of the Defense Subcommittee, Norm Dicks, and all my colleagues on the Subcommittee for their leadership and vision in providing this life-saving support. The growing proliferation and increasing deadliness of missiles around the world pose a direct threat to the U.S. and our allies, making funding missile defense systems vitally important for America's national security.

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