

President Obama Funds US-Israel Missile Defense Systems at Historically High Levels

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

Today, President Obama sent a strong message by signing into law the highest levels of funding for the joint US-Israel missile defense programs in our history. Our enemies and friends will now continue to know that the US and Israel are making even more powerful the already unprecedented military and intelligence cooperation between our two nations.

I thank President Obama, Chairman Bill Young (R-FL), Ranking Member Norm Dicks (D-WA), and all my colleagues on the Defense Subcommittee for their leadership and vision in funding these life-saving programs. With their support, the US will invest \$235.7 million for essential joint US-Israel missile defense programs for the coming year. I am proud that since 2007, the US has invested more than \$1 billion in US-Israel joint missile and rocket defense programs.

Given America’s significant budget challenges, every single dollar that is spent by the federal government must be given the highest level of scrutiny, including funds toward the defense of the United States and its allies. It is a mark of the importance of these jointly developed missile defense programs – Arrow 2, Arrow 3, and David’s Sling – that they were all so robustly funded.

The growing proliferation and increasing deadliness of missiles and rockets around the world, from Iran and Hezbollah to Gaza and Syria, pose a direct threat to US national security. Our enemies know they cannot prevail against the combined might of the world’s sole military superpower and the Middle East’s greatest military force. The funding signed into law today by President Obama is only the latest example of the unparalleled strength of military cooperation between the US and Israel.

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