

Rothman Secures \$ 2.5 Billion in U.S. Aid for Israel

For Immediate Release

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ROTHMAN SECURES \$2.56 BILLION IN U.S. AID FOR ISRAEL

--Funds Will Help Secure America's Interests in the Middle East by Bolstering Israel's Military and Providing Economic Assistance--

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) today announced that he helped secure \$2.57 billion in Congressional appropriations for Israel in the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Aid bill. The bill passed the House last night on a vote of 393-32. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Rothman worked closely with his colleagues on this bill, which will provide \$2.28 billion in military assistance and \$240 million in economic aid for the State of Israel. In addition, the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill includes \$40 million for the resettlement of Russian, Eastern European, Ethiopian and other Jewish refugees in the State of Israel.

"Israel is the United States' number one ally in the Middle East, friend of 57 years, invaluable military partner, and the only democracy in the region," Rothman said. "Israel is America's greatest defense bargain at \$2.5 billion. To replace Israel, which has the strongest and best military in the Middle East, would cost the U.S. at least \$130 billion a year and require the deployment of at least 100,000 U.S. troops. I am pleased that I was able to work with my colleagues on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, which recommends all the foreign aid for the U.S., to get the House to approve this aid package for Israel."

The Foreign Operations Appropriations bill is one of 11 spending bills Congress is required to pass each year. This legislation will next be considered by the U.S. Senate and then moves to the White House where President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law.

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