

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky:

We greatly appreciate your efforts on advancing U.S.-Israel defense cooperation—a critical investment that provides security to our allies and stability in the Middle East. Israel will require significant investment in Fiscal Year 2018 to defend itself against aerial threats posed by a wide array of hostile adversaries. As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2018 Defense Appropriations Bill, we respectfully request:

- \$92 million for the procurement (coproduction) of the Iron Dome Defense System
- \$101.5 million for David's Sling Weapon System research and development
- \$120 million for the procurement of the David's Sling Weapon System
- \$82.3 million for Arrow System Improvement Program research and development
- \$85 million for Arrow-3 Weapon System research and development
- \$120 million for procurement of the Arrow-3 Weapon System
- Full funding for the upcoming Arrow 3-Upper Tier Flight Test which will take place in the United States by mid-2018

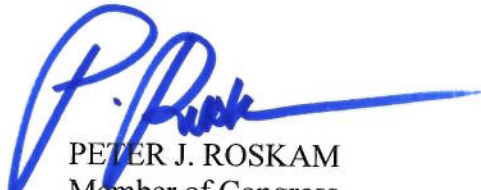
In sum, we request \$600.8 million for cooperative U.S.-Israel missile defense programs, the same amount as appropriated in FY 2017. As Israel's enemies enhance their capabilities, the development of medium and long-range missile defense systems takes on new importance. The United States and Israel are ramping up serial co-production and procurement of the David's Sling Weapons System (DSWS), which will defend against Large Caliber Artillery Rockets (LCAR), Tactical Ballistic Missiles (TBM), and the emerging cruise missile threat. Earlier this year, the United States and Israel conducted the fifth series of successful tests of the David's Sling system, proving its ability to defend against future threats. To address the growing threat of long-range missiles, the United States and Israel are working to accelerate the Arrow System Improvement Program (ASIP). We successfully developed and operationalized the exo-atmospheric Arrow-3 interceptor, which was delivered to Israel's Air Defense Command in January, 2017 and we are continuing work on the Arrow 3 Upper Tier Interceptor Program.

These programs also yield a tremendous return-on-investment for the United States in the form of economic, technological, and military benefits. Beyond the Middle East, we are facing a newly emboldened, aggressive, and increasingly militarized Russia, heightening the need for advanced missile defense system to protect our European allies and forward-based forces. The U.S. army has recently

tested the Iron Dome Defense System as a potential addition to our European-based air defense platform against Russia. And now, the United States is co-producing this system with Israel, giving us a share in this important technology. Over twenty seven vendors from twenty two states are involved in coproduction of Iron Dome between Rafael and Raytheon. As we see our enemies more emboldened and their capabilities growing, joint U.S.-Israel security cooperation is needed now more than ever. These proven 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 can and must prioritize federal funding for the 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 we look forward to working with you to sustain and advance the critical partnership between the U.S. and Israel.

Sincerely,



PETER J. ROSKAM  
Member of Congress



GRACE MENG  
Member of Congress