

# LOBBYING

## AGENDA

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE 2019 • MARCH 24-26 • WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

# LOBBYING

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### SUPPORT SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND FOREIGN AID

**Urge senators** to support **\$3.3 billion** in U.S. security assistance to Israel and **\$500 million** in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2020, as called for in the most recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). And support a **robust overall foreign aid budget**.

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### ENHANCE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Urge senators** to support the **bipartisan, bicameral letter** authored by Sens. Risch (R-ID) and Menendez (D-NJ) and Reps. Engel (D-NY) and McCaul (R-TX) on the threats on Israel's northern border. Thank senators who supported the **Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 (S.1)**.

**Urge House members** to support the **U.S.-Israel Cooperation Enhancement & Regional Security Act (H.R.1837)**—authored by Reps. Deutch (D-FL) and Wilson (R-SC). And support the **bipartisan, bicameral letter** authored by Reps. Engel (D-NY) and McCaul (R-TX) and Sens. Risch (R-ID) and Menendez (D-NJ) on Israel's northern border.

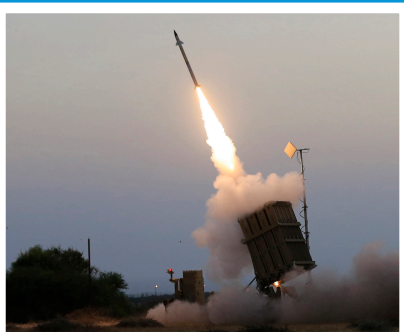
### OPPOSE BOYCOTTS, SUPPORT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS

**Urge senators** to support the **bipartisan anti-BDS resolution**—authored by Sens. Cardin (D-MD) and Portman (R-OH)—to put Congress on record as opposing the anti-Semitic BDS movement, which threatens U.S. companies and American consumers.

**Urge House members** to support the **bipartisan anti-BDS resolution (H.Res.246)**—authored by Reps. Schneider (D-IL) and Zeldin (R-NY)—to put Congress on record as opposing the anti-Semitic BDS movement, which threatens U.S. companies and American consumers.



# SUPPORT SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND FOREIGN AID



U.S. security assistance to Israel is the most tangible manifestation of American support for the Jewish state. Today, Israel faces an unprecedented array of threats stemming from the growing instability and chaos gripping the region—from Iran’s regional aggression to Hamas’ violence from Gaza. These challenges require a significant increase in Israeli defense expenditures. American aid is vital to ensuring Israel can defend itself—by itself—and maintain its qualitative military edge over its adversaries.

## ISRAEL FACES INCREASED THREATS AND COSTS.

On Israel’s northern border, Iran is actively working to establish a permanent military presence in Syria from which it can attack the Jewish state, while Hezbollah continues to amass an arsenal larger and more sophisticated than many national armies. To the south, Hamas in Gaza is continuing to escalate its aggression, launching more than a thousand rockets into Israel in 2018. These challenges require a significant increase in Israeli defense expenditures. Israel spends more on defense as a percentage of GDP than any other nation in the industrialized world. The rising costs of advanced weaponry compound Israel’s challenges.

## U.S. SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL TO ISRAEL’S SECURITY.

In a Middle East that is increasingly uncertain and chaotic, Israel is the one stable, reliable, democratic ally that the United States can consistently count on. The U.S.-Israel relationship is built on an unshakable commitment to shared democratic values and interests, including the rule of law, human rights, and freedoms of speech and religion. Aid to Israel helps provide the resources it needs to remain strong and deter any combination of forces arrayed against

it. U.S. support helps deter conflict by making it clear to potential foes that they cannot defeat the Jewish state.

## A STRONG ISRAEL DIRECTLY SERVES U.S. INTERESTS.

Cooperation between the two democracies in intelligence, homeland security, missile defense and counterterrorism has helped the United States meet its own growing security challenges. America and Israel share vital technologies and techniques that greatly benefit both countries, including in cyber, unmanned vehicles, sensors and electronic warfare systems, battlefield medicine, and advanced defenses for military vehicles.

## FOREIGN AID BOLSTERS U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY.

At just one percent of the budget, U.S. foreign aid is a cost-effective and relatively small investment that saves U.S. taxpayer money. Spending on foreign aid today is cheaper than military dollars that may need to be spent tomorrow. Effective U.S. foreign aid programs help prevent terrorist attacks, weapons proliferation, pandemic disease, humanitarian crises, economic meltdown, societal collapse and the spread of radical ideology.

## TAKE ACTION

**Urge senators** to support **\$3.3 billion** in U.S. security assistance to Israel and **\$500 million** in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2020, as called for in the most recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Additionally, urge senators to support a **robust overall foreign aid budget**.

**Urge House members** to support **\$3.3 billion** in U.S. security assistance to Israel and **\$500 million** in cooperative missile defense funding for Fiscal Year 2020, as called for in the most recent MOU. Additionally, urge House members to support a **robust overall foreign aid budget**.

# ENHANCE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION



Given the strategic importance of the U.S.-Israel alliance to both countries, it is critical to expand bilateral cooperation across a wide array of fields. A strong American-Israeli relationship enables both countries to prosper in times of peace while better preparing to respond to growing threats, now and in the future. This cooperation is most urgent on near-term threats like those on Israel's northern border and longer-term challenges like a potential nuclear-armed Iran.

## SUPPORT LONG-TERM SECURITY COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC COLLABORATION.

Given the security threats confronting Israel, it is crucial for the United States to fulfill its commitment to help Israel defend itself, by itself. Efforts to expand economic cooperation with Israel are also critical to combat efforts to isolate the Jewish state economically and diplomatically. It is important for the United States to strengthen trilateral ties between America, Israel and like-minded nations to more effectively combat shared threats.

## BIPARTISAN LETTER ON THE NORTHERN BORDER.

- Highlights the significant security threats facing Israel on its northern border, including from Iran's presence in Syria and from Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- Underscores Israel's right to self-defense.
- Supports increased pressure on Iran with respect to its malign activities in Syria.
- Backs increased pressure on Hezbollah through full and forceful implementation of sanctions.

## HOUSE BILL: THE U.S.-ISRAEL COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT AND REGIONAL SECURITY ACT.

- Supports the rapid resupply of Israeli forces during a crisis.
- Authorizes more than \$50 million in cooperative programs with Israel over the next five years, including programs in energy, agriculture, water, health technology and joint programs with developing countries.
- Encourages the creation of a coordinator for U.S.-Israel Research and Development.
- Authorizes increased security assistance to Israel as called for in the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on security assistance.

## SENATE BILL: STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019 (S.1).

- In February, the Senate passed S.1, a bipartisan bill that pledged security assistance to Israel over the next 10 years and clarified that state and local governments have the right to counter boycotts of Israel.

## TAKE ACTION

**Urge senators** to support the **bipartisan, bicameral letter** authored by Sens. Risch (R-ID) and Menendez (D-NJ) and Reps. Engel (D-NY) and McCaul (R-TX) on the threats on Israel's northern border. Thank senators who supported the **Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 (S.1)**.

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# OPPOSE BOYCOTTS, SUPPORT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS



Since Israel's founding in 1948, its enemies have repeatedly attempted to undermine and ultimately destroy the Jewish state through military assaults, terrorist attacks and actions at international organizations. More recently, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign has emerged in an effort to stigmatize, delegitimize and isolate the State of Israel. BDS proponents undermine the prospects for peace and decrease the incentive for the parties to negotiate a two-state solution.

## THE BDS MOVEMENT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST ISRAEL.

The BDS movement is a campaign explicitly designed to coerce only one party to one conflict in the entire world, Israel. BDS essentially argues that Israel is the sole party responsible for the stalemate in the peace process and therefore should be unilaterally punished through boycotts, divestment and sanctions. But this argument is belied by the facts, including Israel's repeatedly rebuffed peace efforts and rejected peace offers.

## BDS OPPOSES ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE.

At its heart, BDS does not aim to effect positive political change or improve the situation for Palestinians. The BDS movement's objective is to delegitimize Israel and undermine its right to exist.

## BDS UNDERMINES PEACE.

BDS undermines the prospects for peace by relieving Palestinians of the need to negotiate with Israel and by promoting demands that forgo any expectation of compromise. Peace will be best achieved if the Palestinians are willing to join Israel in direct talks with the goal of two states—the Jewish State of Israel living in peace and security with a demilitarized Palestinian state.

## CONGRESS HAS LED THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTTS.

The United States has long defined Israel's survival and security as important to its own national interests. To this end, Congress and successive administrations have sought to deepen bilateral economic ties and protect Israel against pernicious boycott efforts. Congress must continue to stand by U.S. allies against discriminatory practices that are contrary to U.S. interests.

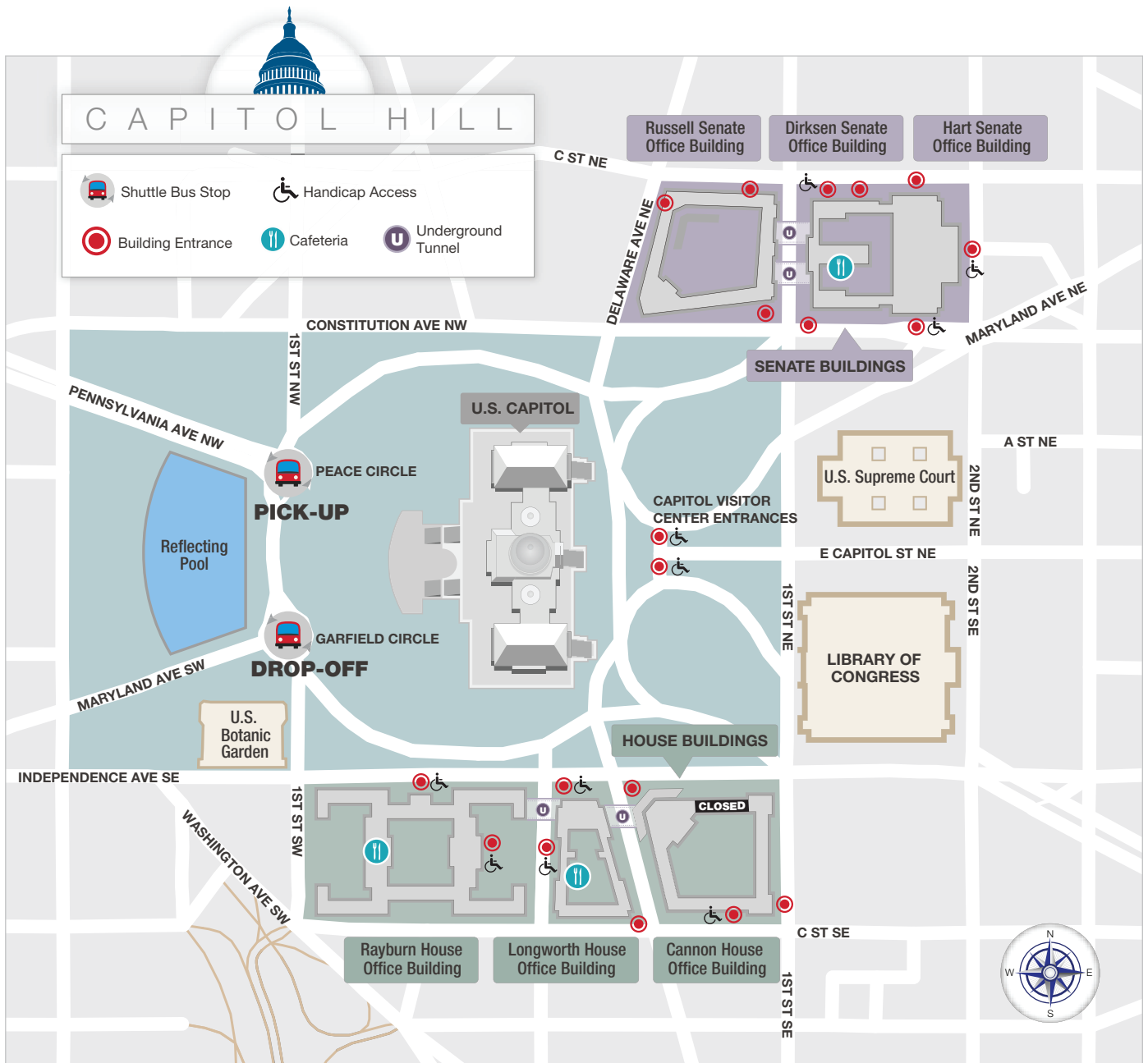
## THE NEW RESOLUTION OPPOSES BDS.

- Opposes the global BDS movement targeting Israel and all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel.
- Reiterates congressional support for direct negotiations leading to a two-state solution, not efforts to bypass talks with boycotts and other coercive measures.
- Supports efforts to counter boycotts through enhanced government-wide, coordinated U.S.-Israel scientific and technological cooperation.

## TAKE ACTION

**Urge senators** to support the **bipartisan anti-BDS resolution**—authored by Sens. Cardin (D-MD) and Portman (R-OH)—to put Congress on record as opposing the anti-Semitic BDS movement, which threatens U.S. companies and American consumers.

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## 8 TIPS FOR LOBBYING

- Be on time.
- A group leader will lead your meeting.
- Be prepared – know your talking points.
- Know your audience.
- Stay on message and listen.
- Do not underestimate staff.
- Lobbying is about building a relationship.
- Always say “thank you.”

## GETTING TO & FROM THE HILL

- Buses will run from the Convention Center to Capitol Hill from 9:00 am to 3:45 pm. You will be dropped off at Garfield Circle on Capitol Hill.
- Buses will run from Capitol Hill to the Convention Center from 12:00 pm to 3:45 pm. You will be picked up at Peace Circle after your lobbying appointments.
- Each building has multiple entrances. If you see a line at one door, you will be directed to another.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Use the AIPAC App to confirm your meeting times and locations.
- Leave luggage behind to expedite security lines.
- Event Staff will be on the Hill to guide and direct you.
- If you have questions while you are on Capitol Hill, ask Event Staff, email [lobbying@aipac.org](mailto:lobbying@aipac.org) or text (202) 670-1532.

MARCH 2019



The mission of AIPAC is to strengthen, protect and promote the U.S.-Israel relationship in ways that enhance the security of the United States and Israel.