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STEPHANIE MURPHY

7TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

July 10, 2018

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McCain, Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Reed, and Ranking Member Smith:

As you work to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, we respectfully request that Section 1672 of the House bill, entitled "Sense of Congress on Missile and Rocket Defense Cooperation between the United States and Israel," be retained in the final conference agreement.

Section 1672 notes that the U.S. and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding in September 2016 covering FY 2019 to FY 2028; that the MOU states that the U.S. will provide \$500,000,000 annually for cooperative programs to develop missile and rocket defense capabilities to help Israel meet its security needs and to enhance U.S. missile defense capabilities; and that the MOU states that Israel may seek additional missile defense funding from the U.S. in exceptional circumstances as jointly agreed by the two countries. Section 1672 then expresses the Sense of Congress that the strong and enduring relationship between the U.S. and Israel is in the national security interest of both countries, and that the MOU, including the provisions related to missile and rocket defense cooperation, is a critical component of the bilateral relationship.

Although the Senate bill does not contain an equivalent provision, several provisions in the bill pertain to missile defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, namely Sections 1265, 1654, and 1660. We believe Section 1672 of the House bill is consistent with these provisions in the Senate bill, since they all serve to reinforce the importance of this aspect of the United States-Israel relationship.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress