United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 10, 2026

John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Committee on Armed Services
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith:

As you prepare to conference the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we respectfully urge you to exclude three provisions from the final bill that would further entrench concerning aspects of the U.S.-Israel defense and intelligence relationship at a time when the Israeli government's actions are increasingly undermining U.S. interests and values. These provisions would constrain the Administration's ability to independently determine how best to protect U.S. national security and would lock in long-term commitments despite our serious concerns with the Israeli government's actions in Gaza, the West Bank, and other parts of the region.

Both Section 1217 from the Senate Armed Services Committee-reported bill and Section 219 of the House-passed bill mandate the creation of a "United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative" to expand and accelerate the U.S.-Israel defense relationship, including technology sharing, co-production of weapons systems, and bilateral research and development across multiple domains of warfare such as biotechnology, quantum, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, cyberwarfare, and others.

The agreements and projects these provisions envision threaten U.S. national security interests by handing Israel leverage over American weapons systems and military technology. This is not hypothetical. The Netanyahu government has already leveraged its existing coproduction agreement with the United States on missile defense to block American Iron Dome batteries from reaching Ukraine, in direct opposition to U.S. national security interests. Should these provisions be enacted, it would further increase Israel's leverage over the United States through some of the most sensitive technologies in warfare. That is not in the U.S. interest.

If enacted, these agreements would create long-term dependencies by embedding Israeli technology into the U.S. defense industrial base that could make future policy changes costly or difficult to implement. President Trump, at his own discretion, could choose to enter new agreements with Israel under existing law. The executive branch does not need a congressional mandate to more deeply entrench U.S.-Israel defense cooperation.

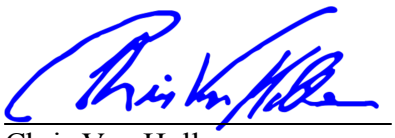
Moreover, we do not share, let alone co-produce, many of these sensitive technologies even with our closest partners, including NATO or other treaty allies. To do so in this instance would be unwise, especially as the Government of Israel continues to pursue policies in Gaza, the West Bank and other parts of the region that are inconsistent with U.S. interests and values.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has openly stated that such an initiative was his idea. In a letter to Representative Stutzman, who led a resolution calling for an effort similar to these provisions, Prime Minister Netanyahu states, "I was glad to receive your proposed Congressional resolution *endorsing my plan* to shift the framework of the US-Israel defense cooperation from aid to partnership." The intention behind this is clear: to move U.S. security assistance governed through more traditional pathways, like Foreign Military Financing and arm sales, to more opaque, less discernible avenues through defense acquisitions and programs of record that reduce transparency, as well as increase Israel's leverage over the United States and our dependency on Israeli technology. This is particularly problematic after Prime Minister Netanyahu boasted that he has been trying to start a war with Iran for 40 years. That war has proven to be a strategic disaster for the United States and against U.S. interests.

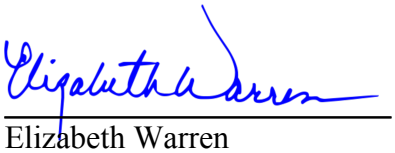
In addition to the provisions discussed above in the Senate and House NDAAs, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) FY27 Intelligence Authorization Act, which is typically incorporated in the final NDAA, includes a provision (Sec. 618) that mandates the executive branch "expand and enhance intelligence sharing with the Government of Israel," and also states that intelligence sharing with Israel "shall not be suspended, reduced, or otherwise materially limited." The provision would tie the President's hands from limiting intelligence sharing with Israel, even when doing so may be necessary to protect U.S. national security. That would be irresponsible and especially troubling given public reports that the Defense Intelligence Agency recently raised the counterintelligence threat from Israel to its highest level.

For all these reasons, we should not legally mandate an expansion in defense co-production or a requirement to increase intelligence sharing with the Government of Israel. We therefore urge you to exclude Section 1217, Section 219, and Section 618 from the NDAA final conference report.

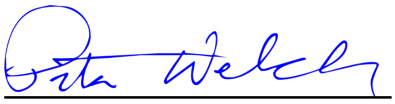
Respectfully,



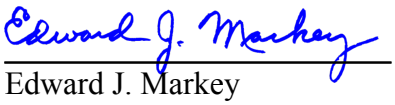
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



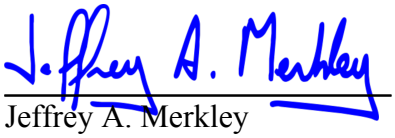
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



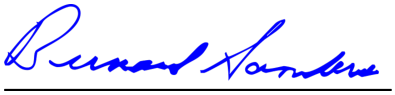
Peter Welch
United States Senator



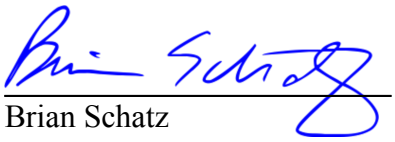
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



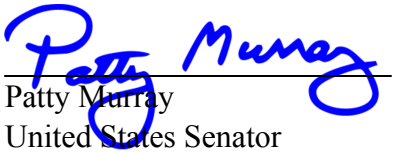
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



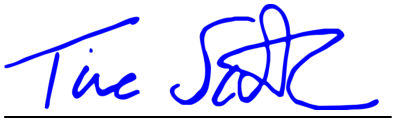
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



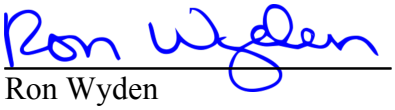
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



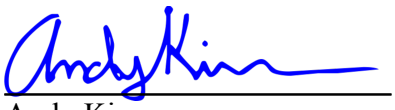
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator