

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4285

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 to improve cooperation between the United States and Israel on anti-tunnel defense capabilities.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2024

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BUDD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 to improve cooperation between the United States and Israel on anti-tunnel defense capabilities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel  
5 Anti-Tunnel Cooperation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Israel is an international leader in devel-  
9 oping innovative defense technologies, including by

1 pioneering efforts to map, detect, destroy, and ma-  
2 neuver through terror tunnels.

3 (2) Terrorist organizations on Israel's borders,  
4 such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic  
5 Jihad (PIJ), with Iran's help, have constructed a  
6 labyrinth of subterranean passages under the Gaza  
7 Strip and areas of southern Lebanon to improve  
8 their military capabilities as well as to attack and  
9 kidnap Israeli soldiers and civilians.

10 (3) Since October 7, 2023, over 1,500 new ter-  
11 ror tunnel shafts, approximately 350 to 450 miles  
12 long, built under hospitals, schools, and homes in  
13 Gaza have been discovered, with over 5,700 entrance  
14 points.

15 (4) In the Gaza Strip, Hamas intentionally uses  
16 civilians as human shields by placing its under-  
17 ground tunnel network beneath densely populated  
18 areas, connecting its terror infrastructure to schools,  
19 hospitals, and mosques.

20 (5) Tunnels in Gaza and Lebanon are used as  
21 underground rocket manufacturing and launching  
22 sites, weapons caches, bunkers, transportation net-  
23 works, and command and control centers.

24 (6) United States and Israeli intelligence indi-  
25 cates that Hamas's military leadership is both shel-

1       tering in the subterranean tunnel network and using  
2       it to hold innocent Israeli hostages.

3               (7) The United States faces similar subterra-  
4       nean threats on the Korean Peninsula, the southern  
5       border, and in various theaters in the Middle East.

6               (8) Israel shares its anti-tunnel technology with  
7       the Department of Defense and the Department of  
8       Homeland Security, which work to advance this  
9       technology further, enhancing the United States'  
10      ability to deal with this growing threat on at the  
11      border and around the world.

12              (9) Since October 7, 2023, there is an increased  
13      need to scale up bilateral cooperation on anti-tun-  
14      neling efforts as a reflection of the complexity of the  
15      subterranean terror reality in Gaza revealed since  
16      the start of Israel's military campaign.

17              (10) Such an increase in joint United States-  
18      Israel cooperation will not only benefit Israel, but  
19      will also help the United States and allies across the  
20      globe that face similar challenges from subterranean  
21      tunnels.

1 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL LIMITATION ON**  
2 **AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR UNITED STATES-**  
3 **ISRAEL ANTI-TUNNEL COOPERATION.**

4 Section 1279(b)(4) of the National Defense Author-  
5 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (22 U.S.C. 8606 note)  
6 is amended by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting  
7 “\$80,000,000”.

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