

## **U.S. Aid to Israel**

January 24, 2020

- The U.S. codified its commitment to provide aid to Israel in a Memorandum of Understanding negotiated and signed by the Obama Administration.
- Every Democratic Member of the House of Representatives voted to make the terms of this MOU law. Supporting an effort to cut aid to Israel walks away from solemn commitments made by President Obama and Congressional Democrats.
- Despite having disagreements with the Israeli government, neither President Obama nor President Clinton, nor any Democratic president before them, has cut aid to Israel - though these presidents did succeed in convincing Israel to freeze settlement activity, a move which was never reciprocated by the Palestinian leadership.
- An aid cutoff makes full scale war more likely, putting Israeli and Palestinian lives in danger. Denying Israel the resources to purchase missile defense systems like the Iron Dome, which they designed, makes a deadly conflict much more likely by leading to more Israeli deaths and a public demand for a ground invasion.
- America's security assistance to Israel is mutually beneficial. Israeli intelligence cooperation saves American lives almost weekly. Israel faces very real threats from Iran, Hezbollah, Syria, and other regional adversaries. Hezbollah, for example, has more missiles in its arsenal than all the European nations combined. And everyone one of them is pointed at Israel. These are the same enemies who threaten the U.S. and our interests. U.S. assistance helps Israel defend itself from these heavily armed adversaries, by itself.
- Abandoning allies is a Trump policy that Democrats should not embrace.