

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1777

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a fund for the conduct of collaborative defense projects between the United States and Israel in emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CROW, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. RYAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a fund for the conduct of collaborative defense projects between the United States and Israel in emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

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 Future of Warfare Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. FUND FOR CONDUCT OF COLLABORATIVE DEFENSE**
2 **PROJECTS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND**
3 **ISRAEL IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The strategic partnership between the
6 United States and Israel is mutually beneficial, rein-
7 forcing shared moral values and security interests
8 while promoting peace and regional stability.

9 (2) A strong strategic relationship between the
10 United States and Israel, and enhanced bilateral co-
11 operation between such countries in defense, home-
12 land security, cybersecurity, space, and other key
13 areas, ensure both countries can confront current
14 and future emerging defense challenges.

15 (3) Israel is a global leader and innovator in
16 the development of defense technology and is one of
17 the closest foreign defense partners of the United
18 States.

19 (4) On September 14, 2016, the United States
20 and Israel signed a 10-year memorandum of under-
21 standing reaffirming the importance of continuing
22 annual United States military assistance to Israel
23 (and other defense programs in areas such as missile
24 defense, counter tunneling, and counter-unmanned
25 aircraft systems) in a way that enhances the security

1 of Israel and strengthens the bilateral relationship
2 between the two countries.

3 (5) On July 12, 2022, President Joe Biden and
4 former Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid committed
5 to elevating the strategic partnership between the
6 United States and Israel to new heights by launch-
7 ing the Strategic High-Level Dialogue on Tech-
8 nology, tasked with establishing a technological part-
9 nership between the United States and Israel with
10 respect to critical and emerging technologies and so-
11 lutions to global challenges.

12 (6) On July 14, 2022, President Joe Biden and
13 former Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid signed a
14 joint declaration titled the “Jerusalem U.S.-Israel
15 Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration” reaffirming
16 the steadfast commitment of the United States to
17 strengthen the self-defense capability of Israel and
18 to “move forward the U.S.-Israel defense partner-
19 ship through cooperation in cutting-edge defense
20 technologies such as high energy laser weapons sys-
21 tems to defend the skies of Israel and in the future
22 those of other U.S. and Israel security partners”.

23 (7) Since 2016, Congress has appropriated
24 \$320,000,000 for counter-tunneling cooperation be-
25 tween the United States (specifically the Irregular

1 Warfare Technical Support Directorate of the De-
2 partment of Defense) and Israel, resulting in the de-
3 velopment of counter-tunnel technology that en-
4 hances the capability of the United States and Israel
5 to deal with tunnel threats at the borders of such
6 countries and elsewhere.

7 (8) Since 2020, Congress has appropriated
8 \$88,000,000 for counter-unmanned aircraft systems
9 cooperation between the United States (specifically
10 the Irregular Warfare Technical Support Directorate
11 of the Department of Defense) and Israel, resulting
12 in the co-development of counter-unmanned aircraft
13 systems for use by the United States Armed Forces,
14 the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United
15 States Secret Service.

16 (9) In January 2023, the Irregular Warfare
17 Technical Support Directorate of the Department of
18 Defense awarded Israel Aerospace Industries a
19 multi-million dollar contract to rapidly develop and
20 deliver a loitering munition known as “ROC-X” to
21 provide ground-based tactical forces with more pre-
22 cise capabilities and improve the safety and security
23 of United States warfighters.

24 (10) Over the last few years, the Irregular War-
25 fare Technical Support Directorate of the Depart-

1 ment of Defense and the Directorate of Defense Re-
2 search and Engineering of the Ministry of Defense
3 of Israel hosted a competition known as the “MO-
4 SAIC Challenge”, seeking cutting-edge hardware
5 and software solutions to address some of the chal-
6 lenging and longstanding technological gaps con-
7 cerning remote autonomous indoor maneuverability.

8 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
9 United States to support and encourage further defense
10 collaboration with Israel in areas of emerging technologies
11 capable of enabling the warfare capabilities of both the
12 United States and Israel to meet emerging defense chal-
13 lenges, including with respect to the areas of artificial in-
14 telligence, cybersecurity, directed energy, and automation.

15 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
17 shall establish a fund, to be known as the “United
18 States-Israel Future of Warfare Research and De-
19 velopment Fund” (in this section referred to as the
20 “Fund”).

21 (2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts in the Fund
22 shall be available for the conduct of collaborative de-
23 fense projects between the United States and Israel
24 in areas of emerging technologies (including artifi-
25 cial intelligence, automation, cybersecurity, and di-

1 rected energy) for the purpose of enabling the
2 Armed Forces of the United States and of Israel, re-
3 spectively, to meet emerging defense challenges.

4 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund
6 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through
7 2028.

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