

Dear Senator Paul:

I understand from <u>press reports</u> that it is your intention to object to Senator Menendez's unanimous consent request to advance aid that would replenish Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system – legislation which passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 420-9. On behalf of the more than 181,000 members of Christians United for Israel (CUFI) in Kentucky, I am writing to respectfully request that you do not object to Senator Menendez's motion.

I have reviewed your comments concerning unspent aid that could offset this expenditure, but I do not believe that tying the two issues together is justified given that doing so imperils Israel's civilian population. Focusing on unspent reconstruction aid in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan is a worthwhile endeavor but one which should be addressed through separate stand-alone legislation, amending a bill that directly relates to Afghanistan or broader U.S. defense policy such as the National Defense Authorization Act.

Funding for Iron Dome is not an academic discussion. Innocent human lives are at stake. As such, your tactics undermine the US-Israel strategic relationship and the safety of innocent Israeli men, women and children living under the threat of terrorist rocket fire as well as the many Americans who regularly visit Israel, including those from our great Commonwealth.

Allowing Hamas to hold a gun to Israelis' heads by blocking support for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system empowers those hate-filled Representatives who demanded support for Iron Dome's replenishment be removed from the recently advanced Continuing Resolution. If you block this unanimous consent request, you will be emboldening the most virulent anti-Israel forces in Congress.

American support for the Jewish state is morally righteous and has consistently stood out as providing the greatest return on investment of any US assistance program. Moreover, your constituents are pro-Israel; we would appreciate your unequivocal support for a purely defensive system central to minimizing the loss of Israeli life.

Please do not object to Sen. Menendez's unanimous consent request. Please reconsider your opposition to this life-saving aid and use your position to enable our country to support Israel in the Jewish state's effort to keep her citizens safe.

Sincerely,

David Wicker

Congressional Liaison

Christians United for Israel

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