

# TALKING POINTS



## THE DEFEND ACT

(Deterring Enemy Forces and Enabling National Defenses) Act of 2022  
(S. 4366/ H.R. 7987)

*“The Abraham Accords are the beginning, not the end, of efforts to see peace and prosperity spread across the Middle East. But we will not be successful in this endeavor so long as Iran continues to spread violence and death throughout the region. The DEFEND act is a vital next step to bringing America’s allies in the region together in a tangible way to confront the Iranian menace.”*

– Pastor John Hagee,  
CUFI founder and Chairman

### BACKGROUND:

The Abraham Accords, which were signed on September 15, 2020, brought forward normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab and North African states—the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco—opening the region to a new era of economic, social, and strategic relations.

The agreements not only enhanced Israel’s security and advanced U.S. national security interests but created an opportunity for a regional approach to critical security threats – chief among them, Iran’s malign activities across the Middle East.

Nations across the region have been victims of Iranian attacks via the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) and that of its proxy forces such as Hezbollah, Hamas, the Yemen-based Houthis and a variety of Iraqi militias backed by Tehran.

As attacks by Iranian backed forces increase in quantity and quality, particularly from advanced missiles and drones, the strategic cooperation which has materialized as an outgrowth of the Abraham Accords is increasingly important to regional stability.

The U.S. has a key role to play in bolstering the ongoing strategic cooperation and improving the collective security of the Abraham Accords nations by supporting an integrated air and missile defense system to defend against the threat posed by Tehran’s radical regime.

### KEY POINTS:

**This legislation requires the Secretary of Defense to:**

- Assess the potential for improved integrated air and missile defense cooperation between the United States and Middle Eastern allies and partners to counter threats from Iran and Iranian-linked groups.
- Provide an explanation of how an integrated air and missile defense architecture would improve collective security in the region.
- Provide an assessment of the threat of ballistic and cruise missiles, manned and unmanned aerial systems, and rocket attacks from Iran and groups linked to Iran.

### LEAD COSPONSORS:

**S. 4366:** Senators Ernst (R-IA), Rosen (D-NV), Lankford (R-OK), Booker (D-NJ)

**H.R. 7987:** Representatives Wagner (R-MO), Trone (D-MD), McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Schneider (D-IL), Bacon (R-NE), Panetta (D-CA)

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## HOUSE AND SENATE STATE-FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

*“Ensuring Israel has the ability to defend itself against terrorists like Hamas and Hezbollah is the best foreign investment our nation has ever made. The Israelis fight our shared enemies because Americans and Israelis have shared values. The Israelis do their part by keeping those enemies at bay; we must do ours by ensuring Israel has the means to do so.”*

– Pastor John Hagee,  
CUFI founder and Chairman

### BACKGROUND:

This annual legislation appropriates \$3.3 billion in American military assistance to Israel. This assistance ensures Israel's ability to defend itself and directly benefits the U.S. as well. Over 75% of this assistance must be spent in the United States, thereby supporting high quality American jobs and ensuring America maintains our military manufacturing superiority in an uncertain world. Such support, which accounts for less than one percent of the federal budget, also ensures Israel has the qualitative military advantage in the region it needs to defend itself.

This assistance also helps ensure that Israel is best positioned to provide the U.S. with vital intelligence, exceptional military-related technological advancements which help protect American troops, and a true safe zone for American servicemen and women in the Middle East.

### KEY POINTS:

- The current version of the State-Foreign Operations Bill includes the full \$3.3 billion as outlined by the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel.
- This version, currently in the House of Representatives, also includes an array of restrictions on assistance to Palestinian organizations in the West Bank and Gaza as it has in previous years. This version also includes \$225M in economic support for programs in the West Bank and Gaza. However, CUFI's position that aid to the Palestinians should be withheld until the Palestinian Authority stops financially incentivizing terror remains unchanged.
- We urge Congress to advance the State-Foreign Operations Bill with the full \$3.3 billion, with no conditions, as prescribed by the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding signed by then President Barack Obama and then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

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## COI ELIMINATION ACT

(S.4389/H.R.7223)

*“The Biden administration recognizes that the UNHRC’s Commission of Inquiry is just another antisemitic attempt to demonize the Jewish state, but they must act on this knowledge. Strongly worded statements are not enough. We must take real action and restrict American taxpayer dollars from subsidizing the UN’s latest anti-Israel witch hunt.”*

– Pastor John Hagee,  
CUFI founder and Chairman

### BACKGROUND:

In May of 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) opened an investigation into Israel's actions after the latest Gaza conflict, where Hamas – a known terrorist regime – sent thousands of rockets into populated areas within Israel. This is only the latest attempt by the UNHRC to advance anti-Israel hatred.

In 2018, under the Trump Administration, the U.S. withdrew as a member from the council as it had become a corrupted protector of human rights abusers. Yet, in February of 2021 the Biden Administration announced it would rejoin the UNHRC. After the United States rejoined the UNHRC, 68 senators joined a letter addressed to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken opposing the COI.

### KEY POINTS:

- Restricts American taxpayer dollars from funding the UNHRC's anti-Israel Commission.
- The funds would be withheld until the U.S. Secretary of State certifies that the UNHRC has abolished its Commission of Inquiry (COI) into Israel.

### LEAD COSPONSORS:

**S. 4389:** Senators Tim Scott (R-SC) and Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

**H.R. 7223:** Representatives Greg Steube (R-FL), Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX), and Joe Wilson (R-SC)