

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7866

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. MOULTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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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 Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Israel is an international leader in devel-  
2           oping innovative defense technologies, including pio-  
3           neering efforts to map, detect, destroy, and maneu-  
4           ver through terror tunnels.

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

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

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

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

1           (6) The United States and Israeli intelligence  
2 indicate that both Hamas' military leadership is  
3 sheltering in the subterranean tunnel network as  
4 well using it to hold innocent Israeli hostages.

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

8           (8) Israel shares its anti-tunnel technology with  
9 the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security  
10 who work to advance this technology further enhanc-  
11 ing the United States' ability to deal with this grow-  
12 ing threat on our own border and around the world.

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

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

23 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

24           Section 1279(b)(4) of the National Defense Author-  
25 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (22 U.S.C. 8606 note)

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1 is amended by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting  
2 “\$80,000,000”.

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