

August 2026

To: Senator John Curtis, Senator Mike Lee, Congressman Blake Moore, Congresswoman Celeste Maloy, Congressman Mike Kennedy, and Congressman Burgess Owens:

Re: National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – reject provisions expanding long-term military cooperation between the United States and Israel

Dear Members of the Utah congressional delegation:

We call upon members of the Utah congressional delegation to do the following:

- We urge **Senators Curtis and Lee** to **strike Section 1217** from the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).
- We urge **Congresspersons Moore, Maloy, Kennedy, and Owens** to take advantage of several remaining opportunities to strip **Section 219** from the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):
 - House and Senate lawmakers will meet in a joint conference committee to reconcile differences between the two chambers' bills. Members can pressure leadership to drop Section 219 during these closed-door negotiations.
 - Once the conference committee produces a final compromise bill, both the House and the Senate must vote on the final conference report, allowing members to vote "no" on the entire package.

[The National Defense Authorization Act](#) (NDAA), which initially passed in the House and will be under consideration in the Senate when the summer recess ends, contains provisions that would expand long-term military cooperation between the United States and Israel through joint weapons development, shared manufacturing, technology partnerships, and long-term defense contracts. This is about more than another aid package. It would further integrate the defense industries of both countries in ways that critics argue could become increasingly difficult to reverse, shaping U.S. foreign policy for years to come.

As Josh Reubner, Policy Director of the Institute for Middle East Understanding's Policy Project and a Faculty Fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Social Justice, wrote in an August 3, 2026 [Substack](#) post:

It's this model of co-production and co-development of weapons that pro-Israel Members of Congress inserted into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)—the controversial Section 219 in the House version—without an opportunity to debate an amendment on the merits of integrating Israeli weapons makers into the Pentagon procurement process to an unprecedented extent.

Moving to this model has a two-fold benefit for Israel. First, when Israel receives appropriations for taxpayer-funded weapons, it's US weapons makers which capture the profit. Under co-development and co-production, Israeli weapons makers benefit instead. Second, appropriations for weapons are limited—\$3.3

billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) in the current MOU. However, under Section 219 of the NDAA, the Pentagon would create an unelected, unaccountable Executive Agent whose responsibility would be to synchronize the integration of Israeli weapons manufactures into the US procurement process, potentially leading to contracts for Israeli companies that greatly exceed current amounts of FMF given to Israel. Win-win for Netanyahu.

The devastation Israel has wrought in Gaza is unconscionable. July 2, 2026, marked [1,000 days](#) since the October 2023 attack on Israel and the devastating assault in Gaza that followed. More than 73,000 Palestinians have been killed – including over [21,500 children](#) (including 1,022 babies) – and over 173,000 injured. As of 1/22/2025, [UNICEF](#) reported the Gaza Strip had the highest number of child amputees per capita anywhere in the world. Over 90% of the Gaza Strip has been destroyed: homes, schools, hospitals, places of worship, universities, and entire neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble. Humanitarian organizations have repeatedly warned of widespread displacement, hunger, and the collapse of Gaza's civilian infrastructure. [UNICEF](#) has reported that this period has also been the deadliest for Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank in decades.

As Americans, we cannot ignore our country's role in this conflict. For decades, the United States has been Israel's largest financial supporter, according to the [Council on Foreign Relations](#), providing more than \$300 billion (adjusted for inflation) in foreign assistance since Israel's founding, over \$200 billion of that in military aid. Since October 2023 alone, Congress has approved an additional \$16.3 billion in military aid to Israel, with billions more in military sales and commitments already planned. Current agreements also guarantee \$3.8 billion in annual military assistance through 2028.

International bodies—including the International Court of Justice through two advisory opinions ([7/19/2024](#) and [10/22/2025](#)), and numerous United Nations experts—have raised serious concerns regarding Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and aspects of its military conduct under international law. While these legal and humanitarian questions remain unresolved, Congress should not commit the United States to an even deeper military partnership.

Additionally, U.S. public opinion continues to evolve. According to a February 2026 [Gallup poll](#) Americans sympathize more with Palestinians than with Israelis by a 41-36 margin. A July 2026 [Data for Progress poll](#) found that 58 percent of all Americans want to end taxpayer-funded weapons to Israel, including a majority of Republican voters, who now favor this position as well by a 52-41 margin. According to a May 2026 *New York Times*/Siena College [poll](#), 74% of Democratic voters opposed providing additional economic and military support to Israel, while only 20% percent supported it.

There is still time for Congress to choose a different path.

Ultimately, this moment is about more than legislation. It is about the kind of role the United States chooses to play in the world. It is about whether our foreign policy reflects our commitment to human dignity, accountability, diplomacy, and the protection of civilians. We

urge you to oppose provisions in the NDAA that would deepen long-term military cooperation with Israel.

History will remember the choices made in moments like these. We ask you to follow the lead of your constituents and to vote against these two problematic sections of the NDAA.

Sincerely,

The undersigned Utah constituents