

From: e-Dear Colleague
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 9:09 AM
To:
Subject: Appropriations, CivilRights, ForeignAffairs: Dear Colleague: Support Funding for the Ethiopian National Project in Israel

Support Funding for the Ethiopian National Project in Israel

From: The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
Sent By: Evan.Polisar@mail.house.gov
Date: 3/1/2016

Deadline: March 18, 2016 at 3:00 PM

****This is a programmatic request****

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in requesting that Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Accounts include report language urging the Department of State to include \$12 million through the Economic Support Fund for the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and its mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society. This project, which has already seen significant results in Ethiopian communities across Israel, has great potential for serving as a model in the United States for successful interventions in disadvantaged communities.

The ENP operates in 23 communities across Israel and serves approximately 3,413 in-need youth – approximately one-fourth of the student population considered in-need. These young people receive critical socio-emotional support, including personal support and empowerment workshops, and have seen great improvements in academic performance, personal development, and conceptualization of the future.

This funding, when combined with support from Jewish Federations of America, private stakeholders, local Israeli municipalities, and the Government of Israel, will help to provide school scholastic assistance, funding for staffing and operating neighborhood outreach centers for at-risk youth, and workshops as ENP takes on my students into its program.

If the trend of scholastic and social improvement continues, ENP hopes to start a “sister-program” in a major city in the United States. ENP already works closely with American organizations, and hopes to establish a “sister-program” in the United States in the near future,

utilizing its model to reach in-need students in a major U.S. city. If you have questions or would like to sign the letter, please contact Evan Polisar in Rep. Hastings' office (5-1313, Evan.Polisar@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations, and Related
Programs
HT2, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
State, Foreign Operations, and Related
Programs
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Loewy,

As you consider FY2017 programmatic funding, we respectfully request that you include language in the Subcommittee Report urging the Department of State to include \$12 million through the Economic Support Fund for the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and its mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

The ENP has functioned for the past decade as a supplementary program for Ethiopian-Israeli students, funding the staffing and operation of neighborhood outreach centers, academic tutoring, and workshops designed to empower parents and support community leadership. The ENP operates in 23 communities across Israel and serves approximately 3,413 in-need youth in its scholastic assistance programs – approximately one quarter of the 12,000 Ethiopian youth in Israel classified as in-need.

In addition to this assistance, students receive critical support, including personal support and empowerment workshops, and visit institutes of higher education. According to evaluations, these activities have significantly benefited students in areas related to personal development and academic achievement, and have resulted in some of the highest recorded matriculation scores in language and mathematics.

The Israeli Ministry of Education recently completed a long-term review to determine how to best meet the needs of Ethiopian Israelis. The plan that was presented to the Israeli government included approximately \$50 million, with the ENP to “carry out a big part of the educational initiative,” based upon the proven results of the program. Combined with partnerships with the Jewish Federation of America, private stakeholders, and local municipalities, ENP has been prioritized as key program for advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society. The ENP formally partners with the Prime Minister's Office as well as the Ministries of Education, Finance and Immigration. In addition, the program works closely with American organizations, and believes that its model could be an effective tool for reaching at-risk youth in the United States. In the near future, ENP hopes to establish a “sister-program” in the United States, utilizing its model to reach in-need students in a major U.S. city.

The Project estimates that it needs an additional \$12 million annually over the next four years to expand and effectively reach its target population, and to lay the groundwork for a U.S. sister-city program. We therefore ask that you include the following language in the Subcommittee’s Report for the FY2017 Appropriations Bill:

The Committee recommendation includes \$12,000,000 for the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and its mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

We appreciate your past support for Israel and respectfully request that you include the above language in your Subcommittee Report, urging the Department of State to include \$12 million through the Economic Support Fund for the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and its mission of advancing the integration of Ethiopian-Israelis into Israeli society.

Sincerely,

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress