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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

April 12, 2016

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write in support of your Administration's efforts to finalize a new security assistance Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State of Israel. Timely completion of the MOU is of paramount importance. Israel is our closest ally in a region that has seen increased instability over the past five years. Throughout my career, I have worked with members of both parties to ensure that Israel is protected against regional threats, and it is especially important that the new MOU reflect the threats that Israel faces in a post-Arab Spring environment. As such, the MOU must continue to preserve Israel's qualitative military edge. Our support of Israel is an integral part of our foreign policy and it is essential to provide assistance against the many destabilizing regional factors which Israel faces.

I backed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) because I believe that Iran's development of a nuclear weapon would have been a grave danger to both our national security interests, and those of Israel. In my view, the JCPOA was the best and most verifiable way to ensure that Iran could not secure access to a nuclear weapon. Your Administration and your successor must continue to press Iran to ensure that the JCPOA is effectively implemented and enforced. We must also use all available tools to address other threats posed by Iran, including its destabilizing terrorism-related activities in the region, its persistent human rights abuses, and its continuing ballistic missile tests inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Particularly threatening to Israel's security is Iran's continuing support for terrorist proxies like Hizballah and Hamas. Last year's enactment of powerful new sanctions on those who enable Hizballah's operational or financial networks are a positive step. But we must also ensure that Israel has the appropriate financial assistance to procure weapons and technology to protect against the threats posed by Hizballah and Hamas. Entering into a new MOU with Israel that robustly supports Israel's efforts to meet its growing security demands would help us achieve stability in a tumultuous region.

Thank you for the steps that the Administration has taken toward negotiating a new MOU. I look forward to working with you on this priority moving forward.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown

United States Senator