

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2914

To authorize assistance for anti-tunnel defense capabilities for Israel.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. DONOVAN) 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 authorize assistance for anti-tunnel defense capabilities  
for Israel.

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 Defense Cooperation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Hamas, Hizballah, and the Palestinian Is-  
2           lamic Jihad are United States-designated foreign  
3           terrorist organizations.

4           (2) Designated Palestinian terrorist organiza-  
5           tions have killed hundreds of Israelis and dozens of  
6           Americans in rocket attacks and suicide bombings.

7           (3) Hamas has used underground tunnels to  
8           Israel and Egypt to smuggle weapons, money, and  
9           supplies into Gaza and to send members of Hamas  
10          out of Gaza for training and to bring trainers into  
11          Gaza to teach Hamas how to manufacture rockets  
12          and improve construction of tunnels.

13          (4) Tunnels in Gaza have also been used as un-  
14          derground rocket launching sites, weapons caches,  
15          bunkers, transportation networks, and command and  
16          control centers.

17          (5) In 2006, Hamas kidnapped Israeli soldier  
18          Gilad Shalit through a tunnel and held him for five  
19          years.

20          (6) The Israel Defense Forces discovered and  
21          destroyed 32 tunnels during the conflict with Hamas  
22          in the summer of 2014, 14 of which crossed into  
23          Israel.

24          (7) Since 2014, Hamas has spent considerable  
25          resources to rebuild its tunnel network.

1           (8) Hamas intentionally uses civilians as human  
2 shields by placing its underground tunnel network in  
3 densely populated areas and schools, hospitals, and  
4 mosques.

5           (9) Hizballah has used underground tunnels in  
6 southern Lebanon to move Hizballah fighters and to  
7 launch attacks.

8           (10) The Palestinian Islamic Jihad has also  
9 dug tunnels from Gaza that penetrate Israel.

10           (11) Israel has a right to defend itself from the  
11 violence of Palestinian terrorist groups, including the  
12 violence that is facilitated through terrorist tunnel  
13 networks.

14           (12) The United States is working cooperatively  
15 with the Government of Israel to develop tech-  
16 nologies to detect and destroy tunnels penetrating  
17 the territory of Israel.

18           (13) This joint United States-Israel cooperation  
19 will not only benefit Israel, but will also help the  
20 United States and allies across the globe that face  
21 similar challenges from subterranean tunnels.

22 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE FOR ANTI-TUN-**  
23 **NEL DEFENSE CAPABILITIES FOR ISRAEL.**

24           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, upon  
25 request of the Ministry of Defense of Israel and in con-

1 sultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of  
2 National Intelligence, is authorized to carry out research,  
3 development, test, and evaluation, on a joint basis with  
4 Israel, to establish anti-tunnel capabilities to detect, map,  
5 and neutralize underground tunnels that threaten the  
6 United States or Israel.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
8 authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry  
9 out this section \$47,500,000 for fiscal year 2018.

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