

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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March 14, 2017

Dear John,

Thank you for contacting me about Israel. I appreciate your correspondence and hope that you find this response helpful.

The United States is an unshakable ally of Israel. Our bond with Israel goes beyond political calculations; our two nations' interests, fates, and values are inextricably linked. Both Israel and America are bastions of democracy and places where refugees can begin new lives free from persecution. In this era of growing international unrest, our national security depends on having a strong and secure Israel as a democratic ally in a turbulent part of the world.

Israel's security is a top priority of mine. With Hezbollah and Hamas continuing to pose a dangerous threat to Israel's national security, American support for Israel has never been so important. In September 2016, I was pleased to see the United States and Israel agree to a new Memorandum of Understanding to provide \$38 billion in military assistance to Israel for Fiscal Years 2019-2028, the largest commitment in U.S. history. The agreement is a leap forward for Israel's security and will help Israel maintain a qualitative military edge in its volatile region. The U.S. must do all that we can to help keep Israel safe.

As a strong supporter of the state of Israel, I also oppose the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement that aims to increase economic and political pressure on Israel. The BDS movement does not recognize the legitimacy of Israel's existence and its proponents have often engaged in unacceptable anti-Semitic rhetoric. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the Combating BDS Act, which would explicitly authorize U.S. states and municipalities to boycott or divest from entities that engage in boycotts, divestments, or sanctions targeting Israel.

As a close friend and ally, I also believe we should work with Israel towards a lasting peace with the Palestinian people. As a Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will personally continue to advance the cause of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, including a two-state solution which ensures security and dignity for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Thank you again for contacting me about this matter. I appreciate hearing from you and assure you that I will always do my best to represent the views of my constituents in the Senate. In the future, please do not hesitate to call me in my Connecticut office at (860) 549-8463 or in my Washington office at (202) 224-4041.

Every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator

CSM/ds