



## **JINSA Applauds House and Senate Abraham Accords Caucuses for Introducing "DEFEND Act of 2022"**

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) applauds the House and Senate Abraham Accords Caucuses for their leadership in introducing the “Deterring Enemy Forces and Enabling National Defenses Act of 2022,” or the “DEFEND Act of 2022.” Passage of this bill will be a major step toward the creation of an integrated regional air defense network in the Middle East capable of defending U.S. and allied interests against missile and drone threats originating from Iran and its proxies.

In 2020, the United States helped Israel broker historic agreements to normalize relations with four Arab countries. Known collectively as the Abraham Accords, these landmark deals have created significant new opportunities to advance U.S. national security interests in the region. By leveraging the incredible growth in Arab-Israel cooperation unleashed by the Accords, the United States and its Middle Eastern partners now have an opportunity to bolster regional stability, security, and prosperity.

“The United States has a fundamental interest in strengthening the Abraham Accords, one of the greatest developments in the Middle East in decades,” said Michael Makovsky, JINSA’s President and CEO.

JINSA’s Abraham Accords Policy Project has spearheaded efforts to strengthen these security relationships, especially through a U.S.-led effort to build an integrated regional air defense network. The expert group’s widely read [report](#), “A Stronger and Wider Peace,” recommended being flexible, but ambitious, in forging a new Middle East security architecture. Makovsky notes “as JINSA recommended earlier this year, one way this can be done is by strengthening the capacity of America’s most capable Middle East partners to work together to defend against shared threats in the air domain, especially the growing missile and drone threat posed by Iran and its terrorist proxies.” The DEFEND Act of 2022 would do just that.

At a time of profound concern over America’s commitment to the Middle East, JINSA thanks Senate Abraham Accords Caucus members Sens. James Lankford (R-OK), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Joni Ernst (R-IA) and Cory Booker (D-NJ); House Abraham Accords Caucus members Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), David Trone (D-MD), Ann Wagner (R-MO) and Brad Schneider (D-IL); and House Armed Services Committee members Reps. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) and Don Bacon (R-NE) for working to ensure America continues to lead in a region vital to U.S. interests.

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