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## AIPAC APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS BACKING ISRAEL

*AIPAC President Howard Friedman and Executive Director Howard Kohr released the following statement regarding today's House passage of H. Res. 921.*

"AIPAC commends today's overwhelming House passage of a bipartisan resolution, approved by a vote of 410-8, reaffirming Congress' steadfast support for Israel and condemning Hamas and Hizballah's unprovoked acts of aggression against the Jewish state. The Senate approved a similar resolution on Tuesday by unanimous consent.

"AIPAC applauds Congress for standing strong behind America's ally and friend and backing the Jewish state's right to self-defense. Recent polls indicate that U.S. support for Israel is at an all-time high and the resolutions are a reflection of the American people's desire to stand by Israel in this time of crisis.

"The House and Senate recognize that Israel has been forced to respond to unprovoked attacks and, like the United States and all sovereign nations, has the right and duty to defend its citizens. Congress has called for the immediate and unconditional release of the kidnapped Israeli soldiers and has backed Israel's efforts to deter further aggression by Hizballah and Hamas.

"Congress recognizes the destabilizing role the governments of Syria and Iran have played in the region. The resolutions condemn those governments for their continued support of terrorist organizations and call upon the President to bring the full force of U.S. financial, diplomatic and economic sanctions against these state sponsors of terror.

"Both resolutions also call on the U.N. Security Council to condemn the attacks on Israel and to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559, requiring the dismantlement of Hizballah and the departure of all foreign forces and militias from Lebanon. Despite the U.N.'s demands, the Lebanese government has allowed Hizballah to hold seats in the parliament and cabinet, while at the same time enhancing its rocket arsenal and carrying out attacks against Israel.

"Israel's full withdrawal from both southern Lebanon and Gaza were carried out as acts of peace and goodwill. Unfortunately, these Israeli steps have been met with ongoing acts of violence by groups committed to the destruction of the Jewish state.

"AIPAC commends the bipartisan leadership in both houses for their support and for their efforts to secure the swift passage of these important resolutions."

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