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September 20, 2021

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Chairman
House Rules Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Rules Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman McGovern, and Ranking Member Cole:

Since 1913, the mission of ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” ADL is dedicated to combating antisemitism, prejudice, and bigotry of all kinds, as well as defending democratic ideals and promoting civil rights. ADL is both a leader in the civil rights arena, working in partnership with national and local civil rights, advocacy, community and religious organizations, and a trusted partner of law enforcement on the federal, state and local level, working closely to counter extremism and hate.

On behalf of ADL, I urge you to help pass the following provisions and amendments to the NDAA:

- Section 529(a), to establish an Office of Countering Extremism to counter extremism in the armed forces, require training programs on identifying and mitigating threats of extremism in the ranks, maintain a database of extremist activities in the armed forces, and report annually to Congress and the public on extremist threats within the military. Rather than deferring to the Secretary, definition of extremism in this section should be narrowly defined around domestic violent extremism, including extremist movements with objectives that would violate 18 U.S.C. § 2331, extremism premised on lethal violence, and otherwise adhere closely to the definition in current Department of Defense (DoD) guidance DODI 1325.06. The definition in Section 525 comprises an adequate baseline.
- Sec. 525, §916a. Art. 116a, which would prohibit involvement with violent extremism.
- Sec. 574, which would require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of extremist affiliations in the armed services.
- Provisions to provide \$500 million this fiscal year to support U.S.-Israeli missile defense cooperation, including \$300 million for Israeli

Cooperative Programs, \$108 million for Iron Dome, \$62 million for Arrow 3 Upper Tier Systems, and \$30 million for Short Range Ballistic Missile Systems.

- Rep. Gottheimer’s amendment, which would require a GAO study on the financing of domestic extremists.
- Rep. Gottheimer’s amendment, which would require a report from the State Department – in coordination with other agencies – on the status of designating violent white supremacist organizations as terrorist entities.
- Rep. Gottheimer’s amendment to require the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to report to Congress on the use of online social media by U.S. State Department-designated foreign terrorist organizations, and the threat posed to U.S. national security by online radicalization.
- Rep. Boebert’s amendment to ensure the Secretary reports a definition of extremism to Congress
- Rep. Tlaib’s amendment to require vetting of security assistance recipients for extremism, including white supremacy and antisemitism
- Rep. Aguilar’s amendment, which would enhance screening of recruits to include extremist affiliations.
- Rep. Jackson Lee’s amendment, which would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), FBI, and the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) to create a joint report on the nature of the domestic terrorism threat.
- Rep. Jackson Lee’s amendment Jackson Lee directing the DoD to submit the results of its extremism investigation within 180 days.
- Rep. Cleaver’s amendment, which would create an Alcee Hastings Leadership Institute for Inclusive Transatlantic Engagement
- Reps. Phillips (MN) and Gonzalez (OH), which requires a Secretary of Defense report on how the US is working with other countries in CENTCOM area of responsibility to improve Israel’s coordination with other regional militaries and also requires the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator provide an analysis of the strategic initiatives taken to integrate the Abraham Accords into congressionally authorized and appropriated programs.

We urge you to oppose Rep. Cloud’s amendment to strike Section 529(a) and the amendment from Reps. Ocasio-Cortez, Tlaib, and Pocan which would suspend the transfer of certain Joint Direct Attack Munition weaponry to the Government of Israel.

Together, these provisions can help protect our own military from white supremacist extremism, ensure that our approach to counterterrorism rightfully considers the national security threat of white supremacist terrorism, and robustly support America's longstanding close ally Israel. As you support these amendments, we urge you to prioritize civil liberties protections especially in light of the disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end, representing the name Carmiel Arbit.

Carmiel Arbit
Director of Government Relations