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## U.S. FUNDS THAAD PURCHASE BY ISRAEL

WASHINGTON [MENL] -- The U.S. Congress has sought to increase missile defense aid to Israel to facilitate the purchase of a new American system.

The House has adopted a measure that would provide hundreds of millions of dollars for missile defense projects in Israel. The measure, part of a \$504 billion defense spending bill, would increase funds for the Arrow-2 missile defense project and enable the purchase of a new U.S. system.

The measure, passed on May 17, would allocate \$205 million for missile defense projects in Israel. The House stipulated an additional \$25 million for the coproduction of the Arrow-2 interceptor in a project led by Boeing and the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries.

The House also approved \$135 million for Israel to buy the new U.S.-origin Theater High Altitude Area Defense. Under the measure, Israel could purchase a THAAD fire unit from manufacturer Lockheed Martin.

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