

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on National
Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
374 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on National
Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel,

We write to express our strong support for activities authorized by the Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA) in the Fiscal Year 2027 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. We encourage you to include no less than \$50 million for these programs in FY27.

MEPPA was enacted with bipartisan support on December 21, 2020, thanks to the tremendous effort of your Subcommittee, and was signed into law by President Trump during his first term in office. This historic initiative garnered significant support across the political spectrum and remains a crucial tool for the United States to promote peacebuilding and economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians, expand regional normalization, and strengthen Israel's long-term security. Through bipartisan support, MEPPA was funded at \$37.5 million in the final FY26 appropriations law.

The horrific terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent conflict serve as a stark reminder of the volatility and fragility of the situation in the Middle East. As the region now navigates a fragile ceasefire and renewed diplomatic efforts—including implementation of key elements of the Administration's broader 20-Point Peace Plan—sustained investment in people-to-people peacebuilding is essential to reinforce and protect these diplomatic gains. In fact, Point 18 of President Trump's plan advocates the establishment of interfaith efforts to change mindsets and narratives, promote co-existence, and emphasize the benefits that can be derived from peace. This demonstrates the essential role of programs like MEPPA in building a durable peace and political horizon for Israelis and Palestinians.


MEPPA authorizes \$50 million annually for programs designed to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians. Through the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund (PPF) and the Joint Investment for Peace Initiative (JIP), these programs support civil society leaders and economic partnerships that advance tolerance, interfaith dialogue, coexistence, and shared prosperity. At a moment when these programs are not operating at their intended capacity, restoring full funding in FY27 is essential to reinforce diplomatic progress through practical cooperation and sustained public support.


In today's context, MEPPA is more essential than ever. A ceasefire and broader regional framework cannot succeed without a parallel "bottom-up" strategy that builds trust and reduces the drivers of conflict. Fully funding MEPPA in FY27 will help provide the strongest possible foundation for long-term success.


As we remember the late former Chairwoman Nita Lowey, for whom this legislation was named, we reflect on her belief that such programs are essential to building a durable peace. With her legacy in mind, we respectfully urge you to provide no less than \$50 million for MEPPA in the FY27 House National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs bill.


Thank you for your continued leadership at this pivotal moment.


Sincerely,



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress

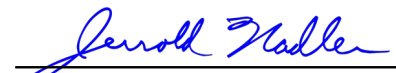

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


Andre Carson
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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Jerrold Nadler
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Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress

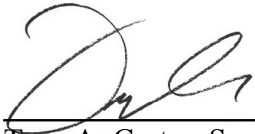

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



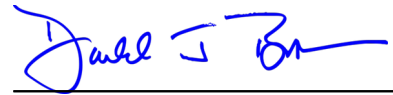
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



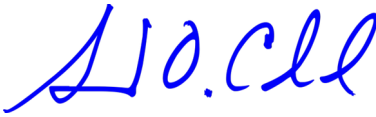
Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



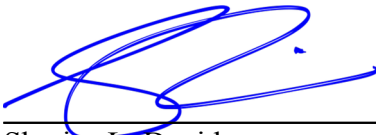
Don Bacon
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Salud Carbajal
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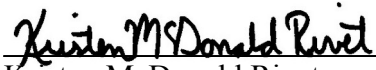
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



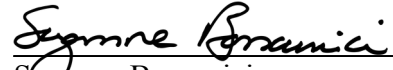
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
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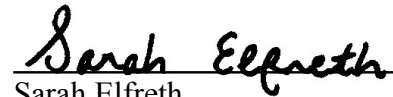
Kristen McDonald Rivet
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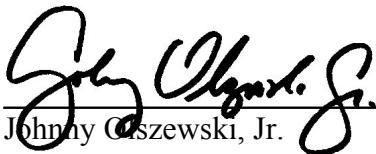
Suzanne Bonamici
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Sarah Elfreth
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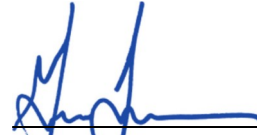
Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
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Wesley Bell
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Frederica S. Wilson
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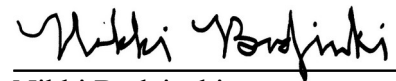
Lori Trahan
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Kevin Mullin
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Josh Gottheimer
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Nikki Budzinski
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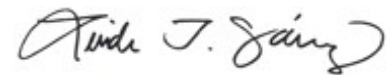
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Linda T. Sánchez
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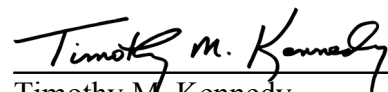
Dina Titus
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James P. McGovern
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Timothy M. Kennedy
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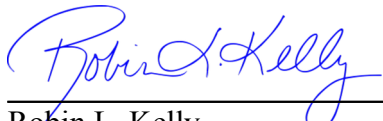
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



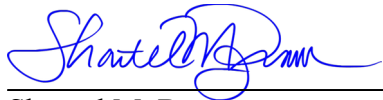
Eric Sorensen
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Haley M. Stevens
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Robin L. Kelly
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Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



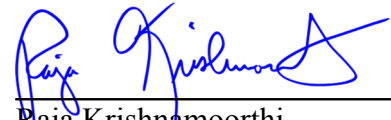
Jake Auchincloss
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Laura A. Gillen
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George Latimer
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Jim Costa
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Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



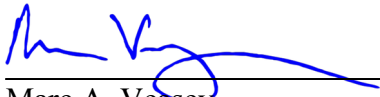
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
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Sarah McBride
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Marc A. Veasey
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Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



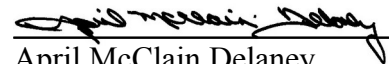
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



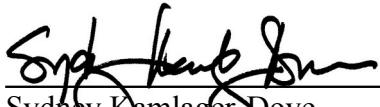
David Scott
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Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



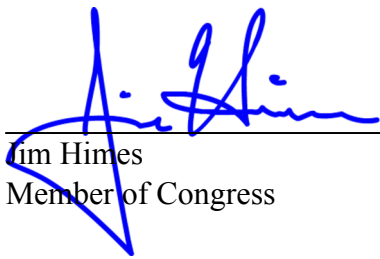
April McClain Delaney
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Gabe Amo
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Jim Himes
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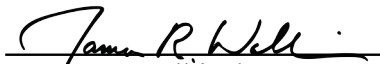
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



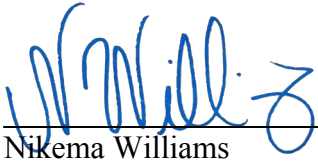
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



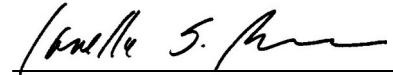
James R. Walkinshaw
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Brad Sherman
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Nikema Williams
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Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress



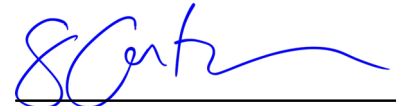
Chellie Pingree
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Julia Brownley
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Patrick Ryan
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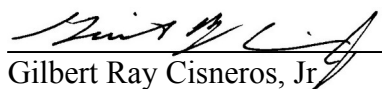
Sean Casten
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Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



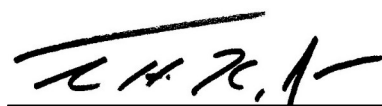
Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



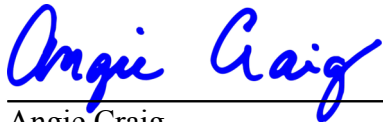
Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



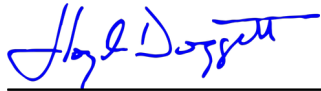
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



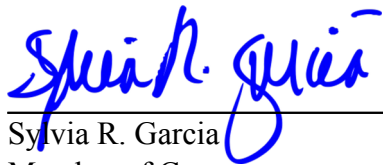
Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



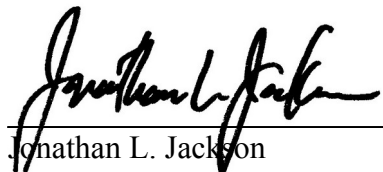
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



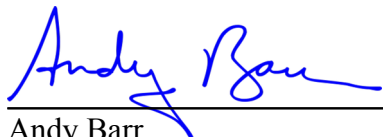
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



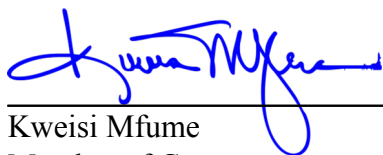
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



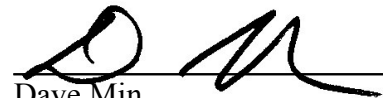
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



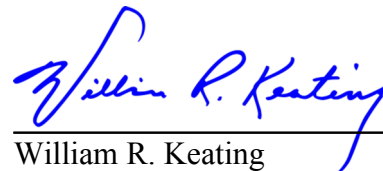
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



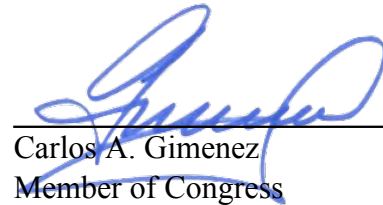
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



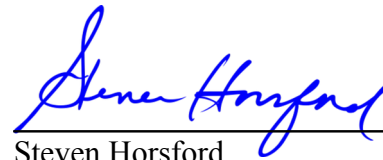
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



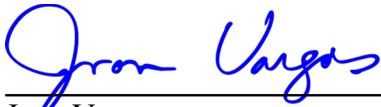
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



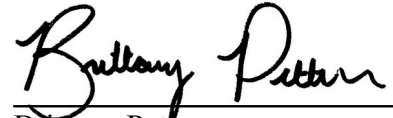
Luz M. Rivas
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Michael Baumgartner
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Juan Vargas
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Brittany Pettersen
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