Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 12, 2016

His Excellency Reuven Rivlin
President of the State of Israel
The Office of the President of Israel
3 HaNasi Street
Komemiut Neighborhood (Talbiyeh)
Jerusalem 92188
Israel

Dear President Rivlin,

Today, we congratulate you and the people of Israel on the 68th anniversary of your Independence. Since 1948, the State of Israel has shined as an innovative, robust, and vibrant democracy, and we celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Israel and her people in the Middle East and international community. On this happy occasion, we are also proud to reaffirm the unbreakable bond between our two great nations.

Since its inception, Israel has overcome considerable threats and challenges, and as we celebrate its independence, we also remember those who have fallen in defense of the Jewish homeland. Today, Israel continues to face significant threats from state and non-state actors, as well as insidious efforts to undermine its international legitimacy. Despite these obstacles, Israel has exemplified courage and hope in a turbulent region by advancing democratic values and global justice.

On this Independence Day, we honor Israel's legacy of freedom and resilience and recommit ourselves to strengthening the mutually beneficial relationship between our nations, which is based on shared values and security. We proudly celebrate the freedoms that Israel stands for and congratulate you on this day.

Sincerely,

Eliot L. Engel
ELIOT L. ENGEL
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Foundation

Trent Franks
TRENT FRANKS
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Foundation

Doug Lamborn
DOUG LAMBORN
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Foundation

Brad Sherman
BRAD SHERMAN
Co-Chair, Israel Allies Foundation

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