



January 14, 2025

Senate Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members of the Committee:

Subject: Support for the Confirmation of Pete Hegseth as U.S. Secretary of Defense

On behalf of the Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN), I am writing to express our strong support for the confirmation of Pete Hegseth as the next U.S. Secretary of Defense. Secretary-Designate Hegseth's distinguished military service, proven leadership, and unwavering commitment to the U.S.-Israel alliance make him an exceptional choice to lead our nation's defense.

Secretary-Designate Hegseth is a decorated Army veteran with two Bronze Stars and extensive experience in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay. His battlefield leadership and strategic expertise uniquely qualify him to guide the Department of Defense through a complex global security landscape. Beyond his military service, Secretary-Designate Hegseth has been a consistent advocate for Israel, demonstrating a deep understanding of its security needs and a commitment to the shared democratic values that bind our nations.

As Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth will play a critical role in addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing the U.S. and its allies. ICAN urges the Committee to prioritize the following areas during his confirmation process:

1. **Strengthening U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation:**
 - Deepen collaboration on counterterrorism operations, joint military training, and intelligence sharing to address threats from Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran.
 - Accelerate the development and deployment of advanced missile defense systems, including Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow, ensuring their seamless integration into U.S. and allied defense frameworks.
2. **Confronting a Nuclear Iran:**
 - Prioritize deterring Iran's nuclear ambitions by enhancing military preparedness in the region, prepositioning critical assets, and maintaining a credible deterrent posture.
 - Coordinate with allies to enforce sanctions and prepare contingencies for potential military action if Iran advances its nuclear capabilities.
3. **Preparing for Modern Warfare:**
 - Invest in cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and space-based systems, to counter threats from state and non-state actors.
 - Equip the military to handle hybrid warfare scenarios involving cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and proxy conflicts.

Secretary-Designate Hegseth's leadership will ensure the U.S. is prepared to meet the evolving challenges of modern defense while strengthening the enduring bond between the United States and Israel. His confirmation as Secretary of Defense will reinforce America's commitment to global security, regional stability, and the principles of freedom and democracy.

ICAN respectfully urges the Committee to support Pete Hegseth's confirmation and to advance a timely and thorough review process. We look forward to his leadership and to collaborating with the Department of Defense to address shared priorities for a safer and more secure future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dillon Hosier
CEO & National Co-Chair
Israeli-American Civic Action Network (ICAN)