

## Why Withholding Aid to Israel Won't Bring Peace (or Cheap Gas)

### THE LIE

Pausing U.S. aid to Israel for just one month would end Israel's military operations, bring instant peace to the Middle East, reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and cut American gas prices by \$2 per gallon.

### THE TRUTH

None of those outcomes would occur even if U.S. aid to Israel were eliminated entirely.

### BACKGROUND

- On June 2, 2026, Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) argued that pausing U.S. foreign aid to Israel for just one month would end Israel's military operations, deliver instant peace across the Middle East, reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and cut American gas prices by \$2 per gallon. ([Thomas Massie](#))
- The U.S. currently provides \$3.8 billion to Israel annually in foreign military assistance. ([White House](#))

### TRUTH EXPLAINED

- A one-month pause in U.S. aid to Israel would withhold only about \$300 million—0.1% of Israel's budget—far too little to end Israel's military operations, alter its strategic calculations, or produce "instant peace" in the Middle East. ([Unpacked](#))
- U.S. aid to Israel is not welfare. Nearly all of the \$3.8 billion annual package must be spent on American-made weapons and defense systems, supporting U.S. jobs and manufacturing. Israel then shares its upgraded military technology, intelligence, and techniques with the U.S., and reduces the need for a far more expensive direct U.S. military presence in the region. ([White House](#)), ([ITN](#)), ([AJC](#))
- The Israeli-Arab conflict predates modern U.S. aid by decades. Major wars were fought in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973 before large-scale American military assistance existed, demonstrating that the conflict's roots lie in longstanding ideological and territorial disputes rather than U.S. foreign aid. ([AJC](#))
- Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis are driven by an explicit ideological commitment to Israel's destruction and operate as part of Iran's regional strategy. Their objectives would not change because the United States temporarily withheld aid from Israel. ([Hamas charter](#)), ([Georgetown University](#))
- Israel is not dependent on American aid for survival. It has a strong economy, a world-class defense industry, and is already moving toward greater financial independence, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly advocating a gradual phaseout of direct U.S. financial assistance. ([Daily Wire](#))
- The Middle East's instability is driven by multiple independent conflicts—including Syria's civil war, Yemen's war, Iran's regional ambitions, and Sunni-Shia rivalries—that have nothing to do with U.S. aid to Israel. Reducing support for Israel would more likely be viewed by hostile actors as a sign of American retreat than a pathway to peace. ([CFR](#)), ([Congress](#)), ([CIRSD](#))
- The claim that pausing aid to Israel would lower gas prices misunderstands how energy markets work. Gas prices are determined by global oil supply and demand, while the Strait of Hormuz is controlled by Iran, not Israel. A \$2-per-gallon drop in U.S. gasoline prices would require a major increase in global oil production, not a temporary change in American foreign aid policy. ([CNBC](#)), ([EIA](#))

### QUOTES

"Israel receives \$3.8 billion but spends far more than that buying U.S. military goods. The U.S. also receives intel, tech innovations so that ROI is many times more." – U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee

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"Israel deeply appreciates the financial component of the military aid the United States has generously provided us over the years. The time has now arrived for us to move from aid recipient to partner." – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

### TAKEAWAY

Rep. Thomas Massie is peddling the delusion that yanking Israel's military aid for a single month would magically produce instant peace in the Middle East, reopen the Strait of Hormuz, and slash gas prices by two dollars a gallon. This claim ignores elementary facts: Arab nations and terror groups attacked Israel long before significant U.S. aid began, Hamas and Iran's proxies are driven by an explicit goal of destroying Israel rather than U.S. funding levels, and even Prime Minister Netanyahu is backing legislation to phase out the aid, proving Israel is capable of standing independently with its own robust economy and defense industry. At this stage, it's hard to believe a veteran lawmaker remains this ignorant of basic history and geopolitics—raising the question of whether Massie is simply out of his depth or deliberately hawking anti-Israel narratives for clicks and applause.