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# Frankly Speaking...

OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS FRANKEL (FL-22) | JUNE 7, 2023

## Reps. Frankel, Wilson Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Expand US-Israel International Development Partnership



**Washington, DC** – Today, Representatives Lois Frankel (D-FL-22) and Joe Wilson (R-SC-02) introduced legislation to extend and increase international development cooperation between the United States and Israel. This legislation [reauthorizes and expands a successful program](#) that has enabled the U.S., through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Israel, primarily through the Israeli Agency for International Development and Cooperation (MASHAV), to engage in sustainability projects in developing countries. The proposed law will also study new opportunities for additional countries to participate in the cooperative program.

To date, the partnership has completed projects such as bringing smart-agriculture and greenhouse technology to Albania and expanding technical knowledge of drip irrigation in the coffee production industry in Guatemala.

“Israel and the United States have a special relationship,” **said Rep. Frankel.** “This legislation will allow our joint efforts to continue to boost green energy production, water technology, education, and food security in developing countries, while fostering good will.”

“The United States and Israel have unique capabilities to confront shared threats and opportunities. As our two countries celebrate 75 years of an unbreakable relationship, this bill promotes strengthened cross-sector collaboration that will truly unleash the full potential of our two countries. Countries around the world will benefit from the result of development cooperation,” **said Rep. Wilson.**

“Recent development cooperation between the United States and Israel has led to collaboration on agricultural, water, and energy projects in Central America and Europe. These projects have enabled the sharing of American and Israeli know-how and technology and are helping to improve lives. Over the last almost three years, the Abraham Accords have opened new pathways to cooperation between Israel and Arab states, pointing the region toward a new era of peace,” **said Jason Isaacson, Chief Policy and Political Affairs Officer at American Jewish Committee (AJC).** “We applaud Representatives Frankel and Wilson for their legislation to reauthorize this important development partnership, and their effort to include regional Arab partners. Such multilateral cooperation further strengthens the Abraham

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Accords and demonstrates the United States Government's commitment to advancing shared goals through international development.”

“America and Israel are partners that work together to benefit each other and the world,” **said the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)**. “This important bipartisan bill will expand this mutually beneficial cooperation by leveraging Israel's proven innovation in areas like water, energy, agriculture, and sustainability.

USAID has a long history of partnering with MASHAV to leverage their capacity-building and training expertise in the areas of education, women's empowerment, food security, humanitarian aid, and technology innovation. In 2019, USAID and MASHAV signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on global development cooperation—this bill fulfills that MOU and enables the US and Israel to continue this important work while creating new partnerships abroad.

The bill has been endorsed by AJC, AIPAC, Hadassah, Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and Jewish Federations of North America.

[Click here](#) for the full text of the bill.

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## **HURRICANE SEASON 2023 IS HERE**

### **ARE YOU READY?**

**DO YOU HAVE A PLAN? DOES YOUR FAMILY KNOW THE PLAN? SEE THE LINK BELOW FROM OUR PALM BEACH COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER AND TAKE SOME TIME TO BE SURE YOU ARE READY!**

**<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/PDF/Hurricane-Guide.pdf>**

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## Rep. Frankel Announces Federal Grant to Improve Railroad Safety, Efficiency



**West Palm Beach, FL** –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) hosted a press conference to announce a new \$320,000 federal grant to improve safety at local Florida East Coast Railroad and Brightline train crossings.

**Rep. Frankel was joined by:**

- Keith James, Mayor, West Palm Beach.
- Kevin Volbrecht, Director of Engineering Services, West Palm Beach.
- Christy Fox, Commissioner, West Palm Beach.
- Cathleen Ward, Commissioner, West Palm Beach.
- Shalonda Warren, Commissioner, West Palm Beach.

The grant will fund a proposed planning project that will examine and identify how pedestrians cross the 8-mile Florida East Coast Railway corridor in the City of West Palm Beach. The study is an effort to review various needs and objectives to ultimately formalize an action plan to improve safety at crossings that serve Florida East Coast Railroad and Brightline trains.

There have been at least [28 fatalities](#) from Brightline collisions since the rail line began service between West Palm Beach and Miami in January 2018. The Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program, created through President Biden’s Infrastructure Law, will provide \$3 billion in grants over five years to improve safety in communities across the country.

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS FRANKEL (FL-22) | JUNE 14, 2023

## ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Speaks Against Harmful Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Funding Bill

**Washington, DC** – Today, Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, participated in debate during the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Funding Bill markup. Rep. Frankel spoke against Republican proposals to cut funding for nutrition programs for women and children and limit access to Mifepristone, the medication abortion pill.



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Below are excerpts from Rep. Frankel's opening remarks, as delivered. For video of Rep. Frankel's full remarks, [click here](#).

*"Thank you Madam Chair.*

*[...]*

*I come from Florida, agriculture is very important to us—thousands and thousands of jobs, billions of dollars to our economy, and very important to your stomach too: corn and watermelon and bell peppers and grapefruits.*



*But this is my question, and I just want to make a couple of points. In a bill that is supposed to support our farmers and to feed the under-resourced, why does the majority, Republicans, believe it's necessary to have a setback on human rights? Why the attack on the LGBT community, or eliminating diversity and inclusion programs? And, most importantly, I just want to say this: the children of tomorrow are not helped by starving the children of today.*

*And I yield back."*

Below are excerpts from Rep. Frankel's remarks defending access to Mifepristone, as delivered. For video of Rep. Frankel's full remarks, [click here](#).

*"This does deserve three 'my, my, my's. And thank you, Representative Torres, I rise to support your amendment that strikes a provision in the bill that nullifies the F.D.A.'s decision to make Mifepristone, I'm going to call it 'Mife', to make it more accessible by removing the requirement that 'Mife' be dispensed only in clinics, hospitals, or medical offices.*

*We've been talking about a lot of medical terms. I want to talk about the people who we represent, like Donna. Donna is from Florida. My Florida colleagues, pay attention. You may know Donna. Actually, Florida still allows abortions up to 15 weeks of pregnancy. Donna is a fifth-grade teacher. She's got three children of her own who she loves very much: Jack, Lily, and Baby Connor, who is only three months. She came back from maternity leave and found out she's pregnant again. She also found out that her husband of 12 years has cancer. And between taking him to treatments, taking care of her kids, teaching the fifth graders, she knows it's not time for her to bring a new baby into the world. [...] Do you know Donna? Does anybody know her? I don't think so.*

*What about Monica? I can't tell you where Monica is, you know why? Because she's hiding. She's hiding from an abusive husband who has emotionally berated her, beat her, controlled her finances, and sexually abused her. And like so many survivors of domestic violence, she has no support system in her community other than the shelter where she is hiding. And she doesn't think it's time for her to have her abuser's child. Does anybody know her? You don't know.*

*[...]*



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*There are so many stories. You know, there are 58 million women in this country who are of child-bearing age. They each have their own story. So, it seems only fair, and it seems only just, and common sense, that we leave the decision of when or whether to start a family up to the person who is pregnant. Not up to a judge, not up to a governor, not up to a Congressperson or a state legislator.*

[...]

*Mifepristone is a safe and effective medicine that's been used for 20 years to terminate pregnancy under the laws of each state and of course, appropriate state regulations. I urge my colleagues to support this very good amendment and I yield back.”*

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS FRANKEL (FL-22) | JUNE 16, 2023

## Rep. Frankel, Local NAACP Commemorate Juneteenth, Push Back on Florida's Regressive Policies



**West Palm Beach, FL** –Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22) hosted a press conference alongside **Rev. David Wiggins, a leader with the South Palm Beach County NAACP**, to commemorate Juneteenth. Frankel and Wiggins highlighted the significance of the holiday while discussing the impact of Florida's regressive policies, which include banning books, cutting AP African American History courses, prohibiting diversity programs, and enacting voter suppression laws. These policies led the NAACP to issue a [travel advisory for the state of Florida](#) last month.

Juneteenth commemorates the freedom and emancipation of the last enslaved African Americans on June 19, 1865. In 2021, Rep. Frankel joined her colleagues in [passing a bill](#) signed by President Biden making Juneteenth a federal holiday. This year marks its third official nationwide observance.

**ICYMI: Rep. Frankel Stands Up for Servicemembers**

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**Washington, DC** – Last week, Representative Lois Frankel (FL-22), a member of the House Appropriations Committee, participated in the Defense Funding Bill markup. Rep. Frankel fought back against harmful Republican provisions that cut funding to sexual assault prevention programs for military personnel and attack servicemembers' access to abortion and reproductive care.



Below are excerpts from Rep. Frankel's opening remarks, as delivered. For video of Rep. Frankel's full remarks, [click here](#).

*“Well, here we go. Another Republican bill that continues the extreme right-wing crusade against American freedoms. The bill, like all the rest of the Republican bills is anti-abortion, anti-gay, anti-diversity, anti-freedom.*

[...]

*It slashes funding for the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response at the Department of Defense. This office, known as SAPRO for short, is the central authority in charge of preventing sexual assault in the military and facilitating recovery for survivors. It promotes military readiness by reducing incidents of sexual assault through prevention, advocacy, and oversight through the DoD Community, training servicemembers to prevent and respond to these incidents, and prepares a report to Congress on the prevention making, which, very sadly, we need so much improvement.*

*Thousands of men and women...enlist in the military. They enlist with pride and excitement. They leave their homes, their friends, their family, willing to risk their lives for our freedom. They endure weeks of intense training, learning teamwork, sometimes hand-to-hand combat, how to use weapons, and working to get into peak physical and mental condition. And now my Republican colleagues want to put them in jeopardy, because it seems like you care more about tax cuts for the wealthy and the profitable corporations than preventing sexual assault on military bases, a pervasive issue in the military.*

[...]

*The odds of servicemembers leaving the military double after experiencing a sexual assault, and that compromises our military preparedness. I know this is something that we all agree on. We all agree on*

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*that our servicemembers deserve [to feel safe on their bases]. We do everything reasonably possible to keep them safe from sexual abuse when they do their job. And this funding cut to the agency that protects them...is just crazy and wrong. This bill takes too many steps backwards.*

*And I yield back.”*

Below are excerpts from Rep. Frankel’s remarks, as delivered, defending access to abortion for our servicemembers. For video of Rep. Frankel’s full remarks, [click here](#).

*“I want to just diverge a second, thank everybody who served. The reason I want to diverge is that these issues that affect our men and women of service are very personal to me. I have a son who served. He will not, he never did, nor will he need an abortion. But here’s what I remember, is when he signed up, he signed up to go to Officer Candidates School in the Marines. But I remember talking to him when he first went in and the pride and the excitement, this kid even enjoyed ironing his uniform. And I think that type of attitude and patriotism is true of most all of the young men and women who go into the military. Including the women who are going to be affected by this bill.*

[...]

*The Biden rule ensures that servicemembers and their families are afforded the time and flexibility they need to make private health care decisions, and ensure that servicemembers are able to access abortion regardless of where they are stationed, and this bill undermines all of that. This bill undermines that rule.*

[...]

*Our servicewomen, like the men, they leave their homes, their families and friends to serve our nation. Some are willing to risk their lives. They train hard, folks. They have patriotic dreams and goals that should not be blocked depending upon what state they serve in. And we trust them with our Black Hawks, logistics, Special Ops, and we should trust them to make their own personal decisions whether or not to continue a pregnancy.*

*They stand up for our freedom and we should stand up for theirs. And with that and yield back.”*

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**PLEASE NOTE: ALL VOTE BY MAIL  
REGISTRATIONS EXPIRED AT THE END OF 2022.**

You are still registered to vote but if you want to vote by mail, you must re-register. You can do so by going to any of the elections offices below:

- Main Office 240 S. Military Trail West Palm Beach 33415 Number: 561-656-6200
- South County 345 S. Congress Avenue Room 103 Delray Beach 33445 Number: 561-276-1226
- North County 3188 PGA Blvd. #2401 Palm Beach Gardens 33410 Number: 561-624-6555
- West County 2976 State Road #15 Second Floor Belle Glade 33430 Number: 561-992-1114

Or you can call the Supervisor of Elections at 561-656-6200 and be sure to have your license or social security card for the call.

**YOU CAN ALSO RE-REGISTER FOR VOTE BY MAIL  
ONLINE AT [VOTEPALMBEACH.GOV](http://VOTEPALMBEACH.GOV)**

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**CONGRESSWOMAN LOIS FRANKEL HOSTED A  
PASSPORT FAIR ON JUNE 24th**

**Over 75 people applied for passports at the Boynton Beach Post Office.**



**THINKING OF TRAVELING INTERNATIONALLY SOON  
OR FOR THE WINTER HOLIDAYS??? MAKE SURE YOU  
HAVE A PASSPORT. MAKE SURE IT DOES NOT EXPIRE IN  
A 3 MONTH PERIOD OR YOU WILL NEED A NEW  
PASSPORT. BE SURE YOU ALLOW 10-15 WEEKS FOR IT  
TO ARRIVE.**

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**Report Scams to the FTC  
IF YOU WERE SCAMMED OR THINK YOU SAW A SCAM,  
TELL THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC) AT  
[REPORTFRAUD.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud)**

**Photo Gallery**

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◀ Rep. Frankel at Gun Violence Survivor sit-in.

Rep. Frankel hosts roundtable to mark the one-year anniversary of the Dobbs decision, which overturned Roe v. Wade and undermined access to abortion care for millions of women across America. ▶



◀ Rep. Frankel at Fall Prevention Conference.



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Rep. Frankel attends Israel 75 event. ▶



◀ Rep. Frankel with Summer 2023 Interns.

Please contact my local office with your concerns, comments, or if you need help at 561-998-9045.

Follow me on Twitter | Facebook | Instagram at @RepLoisFrankel