

Senate approves bill providing \$60.8 billion for Ukraine and President Biden signs the legislation into law



President Biden speaking after signing aid package today.

Last night, the Senate approved the \$95 billion package of military and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine, Israel, the Indo-Pacific region, and other uses that was approved Saturday, after a lengthy delay, by the House of Representatives. Included in the package was the Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriation Act, which provides \$60.8 billion in supplemental appropriations in Fiscal Year 2024 for the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and other agencies. The Department of Defense is the largest recipient and will receive an additional \$48.4 billion. State and Foreign operations will receive an additional \$11.6 billion, and other departments will receive an additional \$800 million. The funding will support current U.S. military operations in the region, replace defense articles that were provided to Ukraine, reimburse Defense for services and training provided to Ukraine, and provide economic support for Ukraine. The Act expands the authority of the President to transfer defense articles and services from the Department of Defense to other countries and organizations, requires him to transfer long-range ATACMS (Army Tactical Missile Systems) to Ukraine, and requires him to enter into an agreement with Ukraine regarding repayment for the economic assistance the U.S. has provided to Ukraine.

The Act was approved, along with three other Acts that provide assistance to Israel, to allies in the Indo-Pacific region, and for humanitarian aid for Gaza,

Sudan, and Haiti Saturday by the House of Representatives by a vote of 311 to 112, with 210 Democrats and 101 Republicans voting in favor and 112 Republicans voting against it. The Act approving aid for Ukraine, along with the other parts of the aid package, was approved last night by the Senate by a vote of 79 to 18, with 48 Democrats and 31 Republicans voting in favor and 15 Republicans and 3 Democrats voting against it.

Minutes later, President Biden said, “Tonight, a bipartisan majority in the Senate joined the House to answer history’s call at this critical inflection point. Congress has passed my legislation to strengthen our national security and send a message to the world about the power of American leadership: we stand resolutely for democracy and freedom, and against tyranny and oppression. I will sign this bill into law and address the American people as soon as it reaches my desk tomorrow so we can begin sending weapons and equipment to Ukraine this week. The need is urgent: for Ukraine, facing unrelenting bombardment from Russia; for Israel, which just faced unprecedented attacks from Iran; for refugees and those impacted by conflicts and natural disasters around the world, including in Gaza, Sudan, and Haiti; and for our partners seeking security and stability in the Indo-Pacific. I want to thank Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, and all of the bipartisan lawmakers in the Senate who voted for this bill. This critical legislation will make our nation and world more secure as we support our friends who are defending themselves against terrorists like Hamas and tyrants like Putin.”

David R. Cameron
April 24, 2024