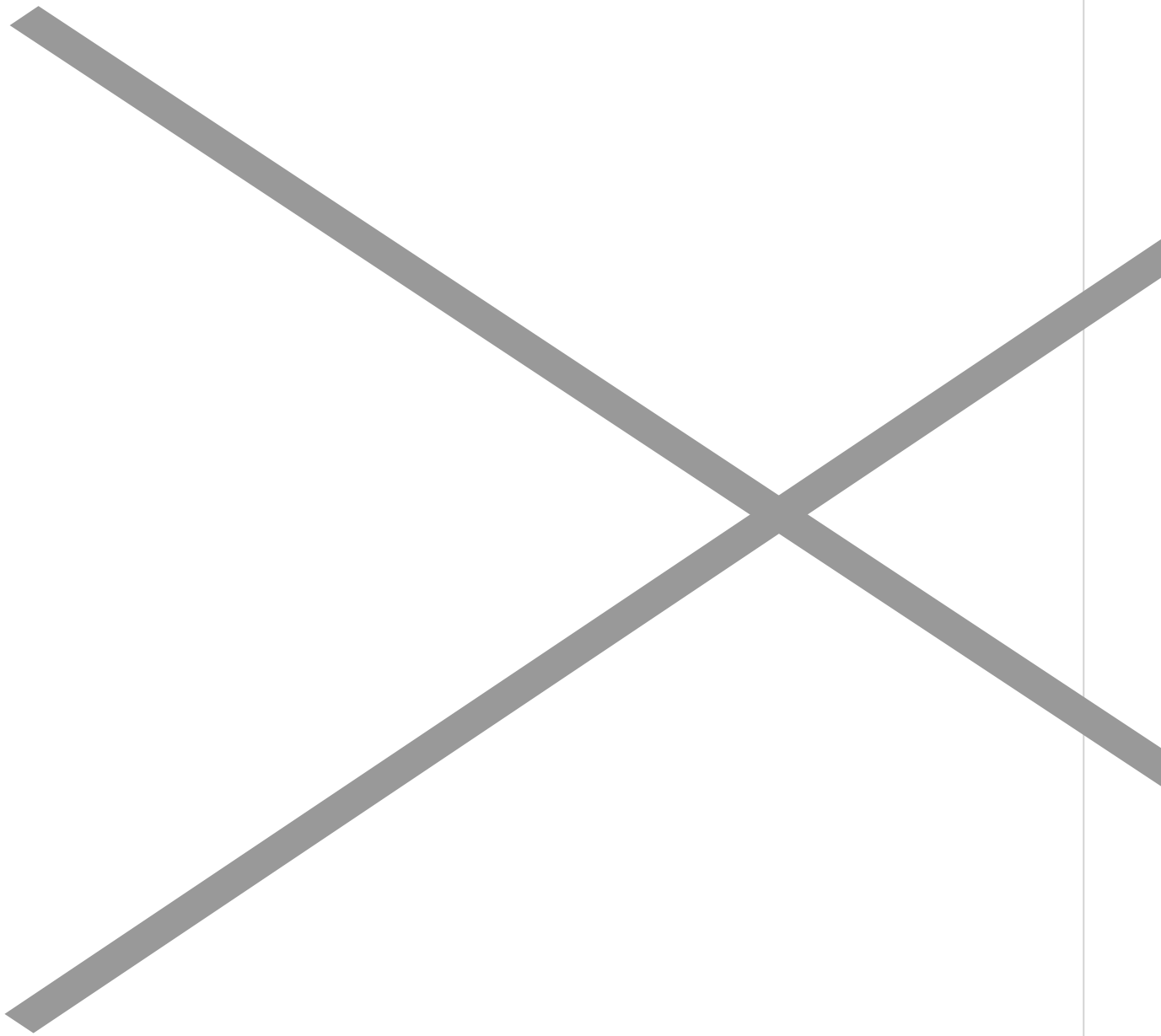


U.S. House passes \$14.5 billion military aid package for Israel

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Money for war... there's always more!

Washington, November 3 (RHC)-- The United States House of Representatives has passed a Republican plan providing \$14.5 billion in military aid for Israel. The plan, which is funded by cuts to the Internal Revenue Service, passed on Thursday by 226 votes to 196, largely along party lines.

The plan is the first major legislative action under new Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson, who took on his role last week after Kevin McCarthy was removed by the hard-right faction of his party.

The package includes \$4 billion to replenish Israel's Iron Dome and David's Sling missile defence systems and military equipment transferred from U.S. stocks.

Johnson on Thursday urged the Senate and White House to quickly approve the bill. "The Senate and White House cannot let this moment pass, and I urge them to act swiftly and pass this bill as the House did today," Johnson said on the social media platform X.

The bill, however, has a slim prospect of becoming law after U.S. President Joe Biden and his fellow Democrats in the Senate signalled their opposition due to its inclusion of spending cuts and a lack of aid for Ukraine -- and not necessarily because Israel is carrying out a genocidal war of aggression against Gaza.

To become law, the bill would have to pass the Senate, where the Democrats have a majority, and receive Biden's signature. Ahead of the vote, the White House said the bill "would have devastating implications for our safety and alliances in the years ahead."

Washington has given Israel more military assistance than any other country since World War II, providing aid worth more than \$124 billion. The U.S. ally is already receiving \$3.8 billion per year in military assistance under a 10-year plan that began in 2016.

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